

floor and walls; in it is a large Shanghai jar of water and a small tin vessel, with a handle, which is used to throw the water over one; this seems odd at first, but you soon get used to and prefer it. Now I must tell you how our first day is spent. Rise about 5.30 a. m., ride or walk till 8 a. m., when it becomes rather hot, and on our return have Chanta Hazari; bathe and dress for breakfast, which is usually taken about 11 a. m., and is rather a substantial meal; amuse ourselves as we like till 2 p. m., at which hour most of the ladies retire for the afternoon, dressing again about 4.30, for tennis or afternoon drive, returning in time to dress for dinner, which is usually about 8 o'clock, after which one is obliged to retire to the Mosquito house, to avoid being pestered by this insects, which are a perfect plague in the Straits Settlements. After a few days rest, I began to feel curious to see some of my surroundings, so we drove to the gardens and thence to the reservoir, being charmed with both places. The roads about here are more than pretty. On our way home we called at Sanglin barracks on Mrs. C—, who has a collection of the loveliest ferns. Singapore has certainly the needful atmosphere for their growth; she showed us ten or twelve different sorts, more like young trees than the poor little plants we get at home. Next day we visited the library and museum, in the latter there are some very good curios, a large lyson stands just inside the door, this was shot and presented by a friend of ours; two hours slip by very quickly in this building. The gaieties, in the shape of luncheon, tennis and dinner parties soon began, so you see social duties take up a good deal of time; our Xmas. festivities beginning by a ball at the barracks, given by Colonel G. and Officers of 58th Regiment. The rooms were all beautifully decorated with flags, rifles, spears, etc., and brightened by the gay uniforms of the Officers. If I have a love for any place in Singapore, I think it is the pawn shop, for here

one can pick up such lovely old malay silver curios, boxes, pillow-ends for next to nothing, and I'm afraid I rather haunted its locality, longing for the possession of unlimited means. One evenning we made up a party to go to the Chinese theatre, but left it in less than half an hour, with racking headaches and feeling thoroughly disgusted with ourselves, for though the costumes are handsome, the play consists of tearing about the stage and making the most diabolical row, accompanied by the hideous orchestra, the hall reeking with opium which the Chinese smoke during the play. The redeeming feature of the entertainment was the "tumbling" given for our special benefit. We had several jolly pic-nics to different parts of the Island as the Government launch was at our disposal. The Ball given by the governor on the Queen's Birthday is a very grand affair, people coming from all the neighboring places to be present at it, so you can realize that it is always a success, and a pretty sight with all the different Naval, Military and Civil Service Uniforms, and the guard of honor lining the steps and hall, and this seems to be the time for friends in different parts of the Straits Settlements to meet. I must not forget to mentioned our visit to Johor; we stayed with the Sultan there, he is a charming man, speaks English fluently, and is never so happy as when his Palace is full of European guests, so you can imagine he did all in his power to make us enjoy ourselves, and exacted a promise before we took our departure, that our visit would be repeated at no very distant date. On leaving he presented each of us with a very handsome silk sarong, to take away with us as a remembrance. On returning after this pleasant trtp we found a telegram awaiting my brother, ordering him to proceed as soon as possible to Sungei Njoiy (a place in the interior of Malay Peninsular), to take command of the Liker Force there. This news seemed to please him vastly, not so

SILKS, SATINS and VELVETS, LARGEST STOCK—McILWRAITH & TREGENZA