

Burma.

The Province of Burma lies to the east of the Bay of Bengal, and covers a range of country stretching from the 10th to, roughly speaking, the 27th parallel of latitude. It is bounded on the north and the north-east by China, and on the east by the kingdom of Siam. The sea line of the Bay of Bengal forms its western boundary, and its north-western frontier marches with the confines of the Manipur State and portions of the Chittagong and Assam borders. Its sea-board extends from Teknaf in the Akyab district in the north, of Maliwun in the Mergui district in the south, a distance of approximately 1,200 miles and its greatest length from Maliwun in the south to the extreme north to the Bhamo district in Upper Burma is not far short of the same distance.

The Province of Burma was added to the British Empire at three periods, viz : after the Burmese Wars of 1826, 1852 and 1885. The area of the country is 236,738 square miles, and it is watered by five great streams, the Irrawaddy, the Chindwin, the Sittang, the Salween and the Myitnge. The Irrawaddy and the Salween are fine rivers which, in the lower part of their course, overflow the flat country below their banks during the rainy season, and the former is navigable for over 900 miles.

The forests of Burma abound in fine trees, and among these teak hold a conspicuous place. A marked feature during the rainy season is the number of beautiful flowering trees. Rice is an important product and with teak forms the chief export. Another growing industry is that of the oil fields, which produce excellent petroleum in large quantities. Rubies and other precious stones, as well as coal, are found in Upper Burma. Of minor importance are the silk, lacquered ware, gold and silver work, and wood and ivory carving industries.

Rangoon.

Rangoon, which is situated about twenty-one miles from the sea, on the Rangoon River, is the Capital of Burma and the seat of the local Government, and also the chief port and the centre of the trade of Burma. It is a large and growing city with an increasing population, and many large and handsome buildings are being built. Great improvements are being made in the harbor accommodation, and a large sum of money is being expended with the object of making Rangoon one of the best equipped ports in the east.

Rice mills and saw mills abound in and about Rangoon, and a little lower down the river are the great oil refineries of the Burma Oil Co., Ltd.

There are a number of pagodas in and about Rangoon, the finest being the Shwe Dagon Pagoda and the Sule Pagoda. The former is the most venerable and the finest, and as it stands on a lofty mound it can be seen for miles around. One of the most charming views in the world is depicted in this number, where the Shwe Dagon Pagoda is seen towering above the placid waters of the Royal Lakes. One who has looked upon this fair scene in the soft evening light is not likely soon to forget it.

These pagodas are profusely gilded from base to summit, and are surmounted by a gilt ironwork "ti" or umbrella, on each of whose many rings hang multitudes of gold and silver jewelled bells. The "ti" on the Shwe Dagon Pagoda was presented by Mindon Min, the late King of Burma, and was placed on the summit at a cost of about £50,000.

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No Life Assurance.

The Niece—"Weren't you shocked, uncle, when you heard that Harry had died and left me a widow?"

The Uncle—"Well, no. That's about all I ever expected he would leave you."

THE PHOTOGRAPH BY F. ALLEN, RANGOON.
 SHOWING THE SHWE DAGON PAGODA IN THE DISTANCE.

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