

ceivable colour from the gorgeously painted clouds that extend in fantastic shapes and strips from the horizon upward. But in these fair scenes man is vile indeed. Here were the homes of the terrible Malay priests who have always been the terror of the Eastern Seas; and only within the last ten to thirty years have they been put down by English gunboats and the efforts of such men as, Rajah or Sir James Brooke of Sarawak in Borneo. Some day I may tell you the story of Rajah Brooke, whose nephew, the present ruler of Sarawak, was adopted as his son and successor by the Malay chiefs before Sir James finally left the island. It is a story that shows what a born ruler of men can do.

The steamer now, instead of going on to Hong-Kong as it usually does, turned into the port of Ilo-ilo on the island of Panay, one of the Phillipine group, to get a cargo of brown cane-grown sugar. This island has a population of nearly a million natives, who are Bisajans, a kind of Malays, and who have been Christianized by Spanish priests. I have seen something of them, at work and play, in their cathedral and in one of their village churches. What Alfred Russell Wallace says of them is perfectly true, so far as I have seen.— "They are a good natured, cheerful, contented and hospitable people; and though when first visited by the Portuguese and Spaniards, they were inferior in civilization to the Malays and Javanese, they may now be considered as equal if not superior to them. Of all Asiatic people they are perhaps those who have made the most advance under European rule. Their education has been attended to, and a large proportion of them can read and write." They are under the middle size, have broad noses with hardly any depression between the eyes, straight black hair that the women allow to hang down their backs instead of making it up in teapot fashion like the Chinese, and olive-coloured complexion. Very few of them are good looking, though the expression is generally amiable; and their fitness for hard and steady work may be judged from the fact

that they get only half the wages that Chinese are paid. They are to all appearance very religious, especially if we are to take their attendance at church as a sign. On a week evening I went into vespers at the Cathedral of Havo, four miles from Ilo-ilo, and found it filled with an attentive congregation numbering between one and two thousand. They like the music of the service, and the dresses of the priests, the processions, and everything that appeals to the senses. But in these ways, the great ideas of the Christian religion have undoubtedly penetrated to their minds.

Yesterday, some of us went to a picnic at a little distance from this and we saw the natives in a country village. Very kind they were; and they seemed to me to have a contented, simple, patriarchal life, without any thought of the great world or any desire for change. Some of them guided us to a pretty glade, and placed dried bamboo mats for us to sit on, under a wide spreading mango tree. On one side was a grove of lofty cocoa-nut trees up the tall clean stems of which they climbed easily by making a notch for their feet here and there with the hatchets they carried to cut off the fruit. They flung down the great nuts and we cut off the tops of two or three and found them filled with delicious sweet milk which in a month or two will turn into white solid food. On the other side, towered up from dense underbush tall feathery bamboos, and intermingled with these a betel-nut palm and a fan palm. In front was a beautiful mango, and beyond it a tumbling stream, in one of the pools of which they wished us to bathe, offering us cocoa nut bowls or hollowed out bamboo gourds to pour the water over our heads and shoulders. Before we had eaten our breakfast, the village band consisting of four good-looking young men appeared with violin, bass-viol, flute and banjo; and they played a number of tunes and then led us back to the village and into the principal house. I went off to see the church and have a talk with the two priests. They too received me most hospitably, and as I could