

Northern Messenger

W. Broucombe & Co. Ltd.

VOLUME XLIII. No. 18

MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1908.

40 Cts. Per An. Post-paid

'We have for quite a number of years taken the 'Messenger,' and we are well pleased with it.'—P. H. Hudson, Plympton, Man.

An Indian Bamboo Suspension Bridge.

Sikkim is one of the self-governing States of India, situated on the borders of Thibet, and acknowledging the British Protectorate in 1890. Like the many wholly independent

the passes of the mountains to the north, drops 15,000 feet in about forty miles, and then emerges upon the plains, a broad and stately river. The bridge by which this cata-

came imminent that he forced himself to cross. The southern slopes of the Himalayas provide entertainment and excitement for the traveller in a degree that, perhaps, no other



States immediately to the north of British territory, has strange and wonderful places, so different from what people of ordinary civilized lands are accustomed to that it is an almost impossible task to bring home to the ordinary reader how primitive are their inhabitants, and how unorthodox their surroundings. The bamboo bridge shown in our picture is an illustration of this. The river here is a foaming torrent, with a discharge equal to that of the Thames at Westminster compressed into a narrow channel scarce fifty yards wide. The Teesta rises in

tract is crossed is composed of bamboos lashed together. Two strands are suspended from side to side of the gorge, and between them hang loops of bamboo bark. Loosely thrown into the loops are long, thin bamboos. Sometimes there is only a single bamboo, and then the traveller must step for his life, for the thing turns and twists under his feet. One traveller through the borderland States had a servant from the plains who delayed them two hours owing to his lack of pluck. Nothing would induce him to venture on the bridge, and it was only when a beating be-

mountain-range in the world can equal. Rising sheer out of the plains of India, the great masses that confront one are deep green in the foot-hills and rich purple in the middle levels, while the upper regions are eternally clad in ice and snow. At 14,000 feet above the sea the pines and firs that darken the scene end abruptly, and are succeeded by another 14,000 feet of glacier and snow-field. At 28,150 feet shines the top of Kunchinjunga, the third highest mountain in the world, and king of the 'Snowy Range.'—'Christian Herald,' London.