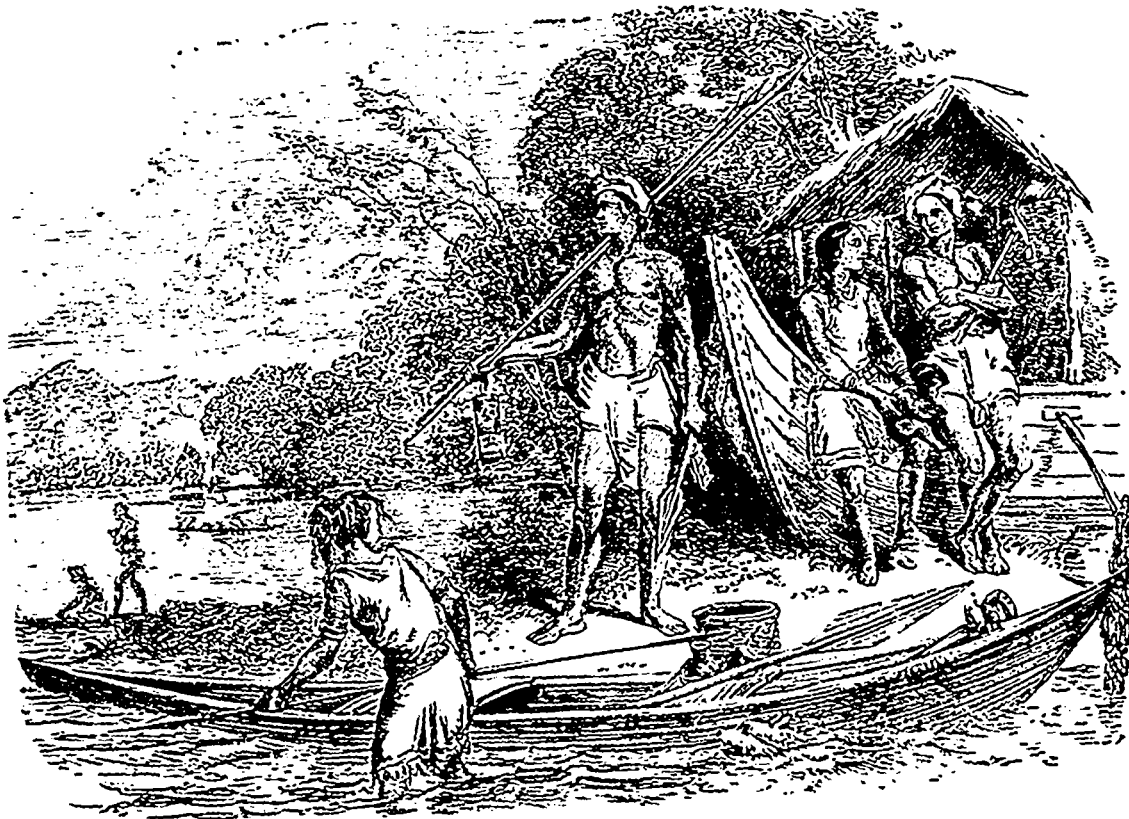


## Young People's Department.



THE DYAKS—BORNEO.

## THE DYAKS—BORNEO.

To the southeast of Burmah, not far from India, are a number of islands, some large, some small. Among them is one which is very large—in fact, it is called the largest island in the world. It is known as Borneo. There are three classes of people there, the Chinese, Malays, and Dyaks. The Dyaks are fond of the water. They almost live in it. You generally see them in pictures with their boats. They use their rivers as we use our roads. But they wander sometimes into the woods; and here they have to be careful, for their forests are full of great snakes. A hunter sat on one once, thinking it was a log, but when the log began to move he quickly jumped off! With his gun he killed him, and when he had cut him open he found that he had just swallowed a full-grown deer.

The Dyaks are a bright, good-looking people, of dark skin and black hair and eyes. They look strong and active, but are not very fond of

work. Nearly all the work is done by the women, who are made to do everything, as if they were slaves.

These people are very curious in the way they build their houses. They put up a great long building, which looks like a house on stilts. It stands so high sometimes that you have to go up a ladder to get into it; and when you are in it, it is more like a big warehouse or freight shed than anything else. But, then, this house is meant for several people to live in. It is more like a village than a house, and each room is occupied by a separate family.

The history of Borneo is almost like a story-book. Over fifty years ago it was a very dangerous place, because there were so many pirates sailing all round it, so that not many people went near it. But there was an Englishman, who had been in India, who went to Borneo to see if it was as bad as people said it was. He went at once to the sultan, who lived at a place called Kuching, on the Sarawak River.