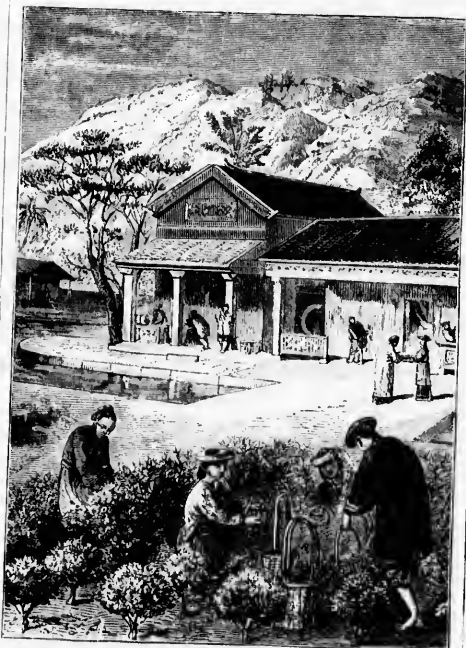


face, and approach him by creeping on his hands and knees: When the king dies, his body is dried by the application of certain drugs. It is then doubled up and placed in an urn, which is deposited in a splendidly decorated and costly funeral temple, built for this purpose. After the dried body has been kept a year it is burned.

711. **Bankok**, the capital of Siam, is a large city on the River Meimam. Many of the inhabitants live on the river in floating houses made of bamboo.

THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

712. The Chinese Empire is as large as the Dominion of Canada and the United States taken



713. TEA-GATHERING.

together. It is made up of several countries. The most important of these is *China*, on the eastern

slope, along the great rivers *Yang-tse-Kiang* and *Hoang Ho*. The other countries of the empire lie to the west and north of China, comprising the highlands between the Himalaya and Altai Mountains. The most important are *Tibet*, *Eastern Turkestan*, *Mongolia*, and *Manchooria*.

China.—713. This portion of the empire has a mild climate and a fertile soil. Every little patch of land is cultivated. The steep, rocky hill-sides are formed into terraces; and the crops are carefully watered by hand. Nearly all the tea used in the world grows in China: it is the leaf of a low shrub; the leaves are picked, dried, rolled, and packed into tea-chests. China also produces much rice, cotton, and silk.

714. China has a great many inhabitants. The people are so numerous that there is scarcely room for all. In fact, many of them live on the rivers: they make a raft of logs, spread earth over it for a garden, and build a little bamboo house in the middle.

715. The Chinese do not usually sit at table when they eat, but gather round the boiler, sitting on the floor or ground, each with his bowl and chop-sticks. Rice is their chief food; but they also eat cats, dogs, and rats.

The men in China keep their heads shaved quite bare, except on the top, where they allow the hair to grow very long, and braid it into a kind of tail, which sometimes hangs half way down to their feet. The women have very small feet, which they think add greatly to their beauty. To prevent their feet from growing, the little girls are compelled to wear tight bandages, which cause much pain and make them walk awkwardly. They must submit to it, however, because it is the fashion.

716. The Chinese are skilled in the manufacture of porcelain, silks, and lacquered ware; also in carving wood and ivory.

717. **Tibet** is a high, cold country, on the north of the Himalayas. The care of cattle, sheep, and goats is the chief pursuit. *Lassa*, the capital, is noted for the splendour of its idol temples.



715. CHINESE LADY'S FOOT.