

with his head-cutting knife, in the possession of the writer.

The houses of the savages, built some of stones, some of slabs, some of earth and thatch, some partially underground and some elevated on posts, differ so much in different localities and tribes that no general description will apply. Their little patches of ground, rudely cultivated with a short-handled hoe, supply them with maize, mountain-rice, taros and sweet potatoes. Berries, plums and small oranges grow wild; while boars, deer, bears and small game form their meat supply. Flesh is eaten half-cooked or entirely raw.

The outstanding characteristic of the mountain savages of Formosa is the practice of head-hunting. It is the one great passion of their lives. It holds a place of unrivalled importance in the life of the tribe. To be recognized as an adult, a warrior, a member of the tribal council, and to have the privilege of marrying a wife, it is necessary to have taken at least one head. To obtain rank and influence it is necessary to have captured several heads. Heads are also needed to drive away pestilence, and to ensure a prosperous year. Add to these motives the wild passion for revenge for wrongs committed in many a border feud, the lust for blood cultivated by a lifetime of stealthy guerrilla warfare, and there burns in the veins of those animal men of the mountains a ferocious craving for the gory trophies of their valour which is little short of a mania.

The objects of their bitterest hatred have always been the Chinese, who



SAVAGE WOMEN IN GALA DRESS PHOTOGRAPHED
IN A STUDIO

dispossessed them of their lands, and have cheated and defrauded them in numberless ways. But they are just about as ready to kill their own kinsmen, the more civilised Malays of the plains. Nor were some of the tribes at all particular to distinguish between a white sailor landed or shipwrecked on the coast and their traditional enemies the Chinese. A head was a head to them, no matter who the original owner might be.

In some cases the flesh is boiled off the heads and eaten, the skulls being kept. More frequently the heads are put up in the place reserved for them and left there to be polished by insects, wind and weather into grinning skulls. Some tribes keep these trophies in their houses, others under the eaves, some have small roofed