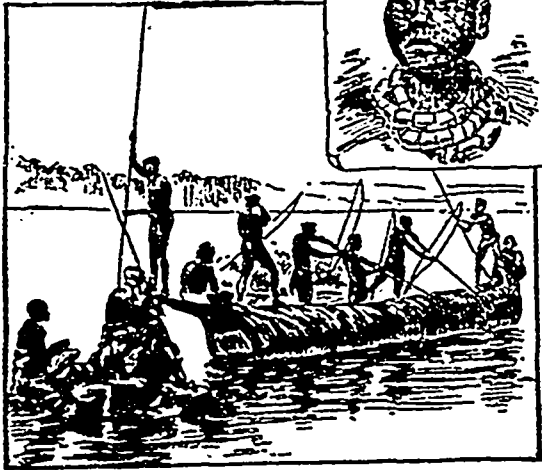


but consist on the products of the field and of the chase and of the waters. None the less, their menu is a liberal one, although it includes roast rats, sea-serpents, iguanas, grubs, and other dainties, which the more fastidious European neglects in a country where fish, game, and yams are abundant. Dogs were introduced by the Europeans, and are much prized by the natives, but they do not eat them, although on the neigh-



ANDAMANESE SHOOTING FISH.

boring Nicobar group dogs are eaten. Their principal weapon is the bow and arrow. Spears are seen occasionally, and harpoons are relied on for turtle-hunting. For some centuries past, shipwrecks have rendered them familiar with the use of iron for arrow-tips, knives, and other minor purposes.

The indispensable costume of the women is a tuft of pandanus (screw-pine) foliage, about a finger long, and of similar breadth. This is never laid aside even in the family circle. This simple costume is sometimes supplemented with a waist-girdle, attached to which behind is a great bunch of pandanus arranged like an ostrich's tail. Necklaces of all sorts are also worn for display, and some attention is devoted to the treatment of the hair, which is cut short and frequently shaved in front.

Painting is as general among both sexes as among Parisian women. Against the presumption that these people are of African stock is the fact that they do not know how to produce fire by means of two sticks. Every hut has its fire kept constantly burning, and it is probable that the original source was lightning or volcanic fire. The Andamanese, like the people of all warm countries, mature early, but ordinarily marriage is postponed until the man is eighteen and the girl sixteen. The marriage formalities are very simple. Many of the children have been taken into the English schools, and show themselves apt pupils up to a certain stage and ready to conform to civilized customs, but on arrival at puberty they are for the most part impatient of the restraints of civilization, and betake themselves to the woods

THE Danish Rigarkir has come into possession of a valuable old document from the times of Valdemar Sejer. It is dated January, 1796, and permits the French Monastery of Clairvaux to export from Denmark hides and skins without duties. The document was found in the Treves archives and is perfect in every respect. Its seal contains an excellent preserved likeness of the King.

THE FORESTS OF CALIFORNIA.

IN *Worthington's Magazine* Boston, February, is a beautiful illustrated article on "The Forests of California," by Charles Howard Shinn.

Nowhere else on the face of the earth are such magnificent coniferous forests as still remain in California. There are forests in level valleys, where for many miles one seems traveling over the tree-clad plains of Russia, there are forests rising thousands of feet up the sides of vast mountains, or filling gorges whose hidden rivers are a day's journey from the trails that wind along the crests of the ridges between.

The great Californian forests are mainly clustered in three immense bodies of timber—the Redwood belt, the Coast Range pine-belt, and the Sierra pine-belt. Each of these consists of lesser groups, either massed, or in nearly parallel strips, determined by differences in altitude, and small isolated groups are near them or far distant, in the midst of barren mountains, once heavily forested.

In the profusely illustrated article before us there are specimens of varieties of forest trees, but the unique *Sequoia gigantea*, in its scattered groups, growing in the wilder parts of Mariposa, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and King's River region, deserves to be specially named among the California conifers. Its smooth, straight deep-red shaft, three hundred feet high or more, crowned with the most vigorous leaves and boughs, the grandest top that ever a conifer had, is the glory of the Sierras, dwarfing by its titanic proportions the great pines about it—pines whose vast boles are ten and twelve feet in diameter. The mountain-dwellers call this tree, also, the "Redwood," and have cut down many grand specimens, especially in Tulare County, to furnish lumber for the villages. Two very large trees have been felled during the past three years to furnish specimens to send to the Chicago Fair. The stump of one was thirty-three feet in diameter. These wonderful trees throw out buttresses of roots and bark to steady



TREE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNOR COMMISSIONER," MARIPOSA GROVE.

the great trunk, and fifty men can sometimes climb eight or ten feet up, and lean against projections, so that a photograph shows them massed against the sloping base of the tall tree-column.

The large trees are often very strongly individualized in their character. Sometimes, a number of trunks spring from the same root, and occasionally two giants side by side are united for fifty or a hundred feet.

