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THE PEOPLE OF THIBET.

The people of Thibet are reported by travellers to be well-disposed and kind, but completely under the control of the Lamas or priests. These Lamas, says one writer, have all the riches of the country in their hands, so that no matter how well people are disposed toward you, a word from the lamas is enough to set them against you. The objection of the lamas to the entry of foreigners was that they would seek the treasures of the country. The Chinese government, which exercises a nominal sovereignty over Thibet, will not issue passports to travel there because they cannot afford sufficient protection for foreigners. They say that the people are easily excited and they cannot be responsible for them.

Lamaism is the prevailing religion. They have a tremendous literature, and reading prayers is their constant employment. They have prayer wheels, some run by water and some by wind, on the tops of the houses. These are filled with prayers, and the fact that they are turned from left to right is the same as reading them, for the words pass before the eyes. If they are turned the other way, however, the effect is bad.

The people engage the lamas to come and read prayers for them. They pay about ten cents a day and give them tea and food. The rich people will give large sums of money for the reading

of prayers. As a matter of fact, under the cloak of sanctity the lamas are engaged in all kinds of trading at Tsa Chin Lu. There

are no pawnbrokers' shops, which are such an institution in China. The business is in the hands of the lamas, and bands of

them scour the country, collecting everything they can.

All the villages are perched upon some inaccessible rock because, on account of the scarcity of farming land, they do not wish to put the village on any ground that can be cultivated. The people live on the barley, which they call somba. They mix it with tea. They have no regular time for meals. Whenever they feel hungry the pot is ready and they make a little of this mixture. Now and then they have a sheep. It is a miserably poor country, and they do not kill much game because they have not the improved firearms.

The people have rather clear-cut features, and thin, aquiline noses are quite common. I saw many with curly hair, although some of them wore a false cue. It is quite an item with the Chinese to sell them different colored silks to make these cues.

The Thibetan woman invests her spare cash in jewellery. She will buy all the silver jewellery she can and then, when she can afford it, exchanges it for gold.

THE LAMA RELIGION.

The essence of all that is sacred is comprised by Lamaism, says another writer, under the name of d K on, m Ch hog, g Ssum—the "Buddha jewel," the "doctrine jewel," and the "priest-hood jewel." The first person and the most important of this trinity is the Buddha, and to him the temples are dedi-



A THIBETAN CHIEF, WITH HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER, ORNAMENTS, PRAYING-WHEEL, ETC.

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