

Boys and Girls.

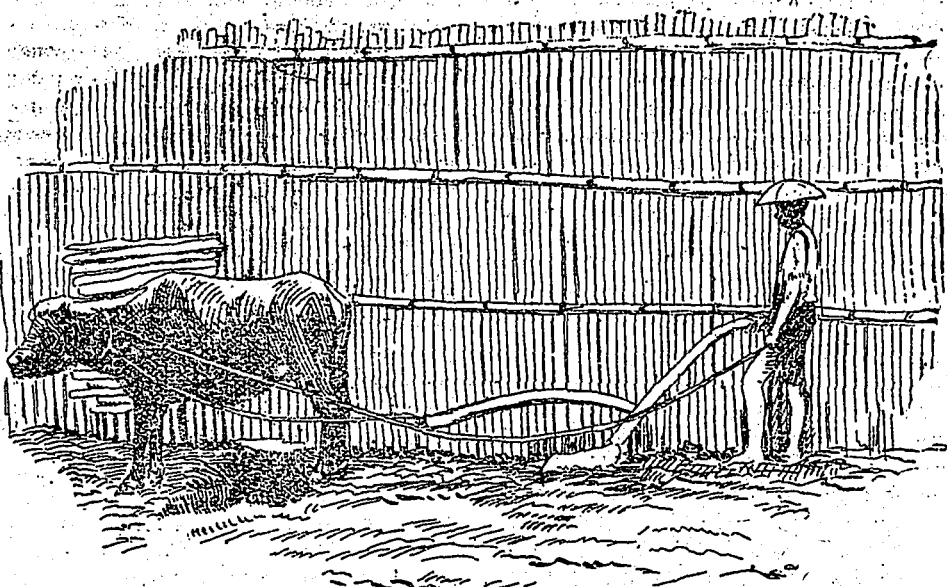
The Philippine Islands.

(R. Buenamar, in Frank Leslie's Magazine.)

The Philippine islands form a Malaysian Archipelago, admirably situated within easy access of China, and offering great facilities for commerce with the ports of that country and those of America, provided means of communication were established calculated to promote an exchange of commodities.



A MILK VENDER.



PLOUGHING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

not fear yellow fever, they are an easy prey to the endemic Asiatic cholera.

The Philippine Islands are high, mountainous and covered with virgin forests. In Luzon there are several volcanoes, but the islands are chiefly remarkable for the variety and abundance of their natural productions.

In them grow all sorts of colonial products and the most delicious fruits. There are over ninety-nine different kinds of rice. Indigo, Indian corn, cotton, cocoa, tobacco, wheat, coffee, sweet potato, honey, black pepper and other spices; orchil, brimstone, swallow nests, tortoise shell, mother-of-pearl, wax, tar, log-wood, ebony, and everything else pertaining to the tropics and the temperate zone, can be found in those islands which have been especially blessed with an exuberant and inexhaustible soil.

Of fruits the variety is endless: oranges, pineapples, plantains, bananas, sweet sops, mamme apples, medlars, mangos, etc., etc.

Their mineral wealth, yet unexploited, is considerable: gold, copper, iron, tombac, sulphur and white marble.

No less precious and varied are the woods available for cabinet and building purposes that abound in those primeval forests, now mainly used as shelter for the natives.

The islands are likewise rich in animals such as buffalos, wild boars, deer and others. There is no need of mentioning the great variety of birds of gorgeous plumage. Nor are there lacking poisonous reptiles. The

dreaded boa constrictor is a denizen of those wildernesses.

Among the domestic animals, not to mention the barnyard fowls, the most useful to the islander is the carabao, a species of buffalo resembling a bull in all save its horns, which are bent backward on a level with the neck and close to it. The carabao is everything to the native; it supplies the place of the horse, which he does not pos-



A RICH CHINESE MERCHANT IN MANILA.

They are situated in the torrid zone, and though in a lower latitude than Cuba, the same temperature prevails as in the latter, being warm and agreeable, owing to the refreshing ocean breeze; yet they are insalubrious. Cold weather and sleet are unknown; but on the other hand the country is frequently visited by great and destructive hurricanes, which the natives call 'vaquios.' Diseases of the digestive organs are predominant, and though Europeans need



INDIAN AND CARABAO.

scarcely, and is generally the instrument of locomotion and labor, being alike employed to till the soil, hitched to the rude plough used by the antediluvian farmer, or to carry him and his family from place to place.

The chief industries of the Philippine Islands are the manufacture of abaca, sugar, and of cocoanut oil. Modern machinery for crushing canes are yet unknown there, and the sugar mills still consist of a pair of iron rollers set in motion by a yoke of carabaos attached to an axle.

The natives devote themselves to cabinet-making; doing open-work on China grass handkerchiefs, dimity and various other silk textures; plaiting hats, and executing wonderful embroideries, lace-work, etc. But the principal agricultural product is tobacco, the monopoly of which, up to 1881, was held by the government.

The capital of the Philippine Islands and of Luzon is the city and port of Manila, seat of the Captain-General and of the other authorities. It has 140,000 inhabitants. Other