

# KING OF ANNAM

## Who Murders His Wives Just For the Pleasure of

# SEEING THEM EXPIRE

### Is About to Visit Paris and the Authorities Are Afraid He May Take a Murderous Fit While There and Chop Off the Heads of Some of the Foolish Women Who Are Bound to Flock to See Him.

A letter from Paris to the New York American says Than Thai, the terrible King of Annam, has become something worse than a white elephant on the hands of the French Government.

Than Thai, it will be recalled, was deposed for slaughtering and torturing a great number of his wives with dreadful cruelties, and one of his little sons has been enthroned in his place. France exercises a protectorate over Annam, which is a large county in Southeastern Asia, adjoining the French possessions in Indo-China. France controls the trade of the country, and makes profit out of the place, but permits a native king to look after purely native affairs.

Now that King Than Thai has been deposed, it becomes a difficult question just what to do with him. He cannot be treated as a common criminal just because in a brief period of mental aberration, he has slaughtered about a score of wives. The natives of Annam would feel shocked if their chief were treated with disrespect, and they might even rebel, for they have the instinct of submission to royalty bred in them by a thousand years of servitude.

It is not even considered right to deprive him of his wives, who number one thousand. Surely the last thing a civilized power ought to do would be to separate a man from his wives.

It is true that the wives are more numerous than the laws of western civilization permit, but the laws and religion under which he enjoys this excessive number are recognized and protected by France. It would certainly be a gross violation of promises and treaty obligations to break up his Majesty's family. His wives, if separated from him, would become grass widows, and that status in Annam is a most disreputable and undesirable one.

Incidentally it may be remarked that France's obligations towards the King of Annam are similar to those of the United States towards the Sultan of Sulu. This country would not think of interfering with that Sultan's domestic relations.

On the other hand, France, as a humane country, cannot permit the ex-King of Annam to murder his wives as he pleases. The only course of France, therefore, is to maintain the King with all his wives in a palace suitable to his rank and descent, and at the same time keep an extremely close watch on him to see that he plunges into no more fits of murderous madness. This, obviously, is an exceedingly difficult task. It is almost impossible for the French official charged with the surveillance of the King to be quite sure how he is treating every one of his thousand wives at every moment of the twenty-four hours.

Just now his Majesty proposes to pay a visit to Paris, and as this is a privilege which has been allowed to Queen Ranavalona of Madagascar, and other deposed monarchs who are captives of the French, it is not considered reasonable to refuse it to Than Thai. It is hoped that the sight of France will impress him with the strength of the country, and that he will go back and tell his people that they had better behave. The hope is also entertained that amusements of Paris will put him in a cheerful frame of mind, in which he will cease to have murderous thoughts.

The proposed visit, however, necessarily occasions considerable uneasiness. It is possible that the Annamite king will be attacked by his blood-thirsty madness while in Paris. Will he take out his sabre and chop off the heads of the fashionable women of Paris, who will undoubtedly flock to see him at receptions and entertainments? Will he run amuck in the Pardin de Paris, or some other place of popular resort? These are troublesome questions.

The atrocities which led to Than Thai's deposition were concealed from the outside world long after they had begun, because they were committed in the seclusion of the harem. One day he assembled all his wives in the throne room, as their statements made afterward to the French officials show.

The poor little creatures knelt down before him as if he was a divinity. He clapped his hands and muscular slaves sprang forward to do his bidding. The King indicated one of his youngest and prettiest wives and ordered them to bring her before him.

With his terrible Malay sword he cut long strips of flesh from the woman's body. The demon King gloated over every detail and thrilled with pleasure as he listened to the victim's shrieks. All the other wives were compelled to watch every detail of the torture in order that they might be filled with terror and suffer in anticipation of their own turn coming.

The next day the King slowly dissected a woman, joint by joint and limb by limb. Another was burnt with irons. In one case he began by cutting off the woman's nose, ears, hands and feet. Every day he invented some new torture.

One of the victims was the Emperor's favorite wife. He killed her with his own hands, and subjected her to peculiarly atrocious tortures, the details of which cannot be described. But before he killed her

she succeeded in scratching his face with her terrible nails, which were kept several inches long and sharpened at the tips, according to the fashion prevalent in that part of the world.

When she was at last dead, he cut her to pieces and served the remains at a banquet, which he forced the other members of his family to attend.

Two of his wives he hung to the ceiling with hooks. One was kept in boiling oil till she died. Two were thrown into the cages of hungry tigers, who devoured them.

Thirteen unfortunate women were slaughtered or tortured to death in one week. The king was not satisfied with killing his own wives, but began to pay attentions to the wives and daughters of his leading subjects. He sent for his prime minister, Tong Doc, and ordered him to bring his young daughter to the palace. Tong Doc was most cordially received by his sovereign, who, however, artfully contrived to send him away on an errand. When Tong Doc returned, he found his daughter laid out upon a great slab of onyx, with the king handling a lot of surgical instruments and about to begin vivisection upon her.

Immediately after this the French Residents decided to intervene and entered the palace with a force of soldiers. There a terrible spectacle awaited him. The throne room and adjoining apartments were littered with dead bodies. Many victims of the torture were still alive. Several of them were hanging from the walls by hooks passed through the fleshy parts of the legs. Some were lying about without noses, eyes, ears and hands. The surviving wives were in a state of unspokeable terror.

The French official arrested the King and Dr. Dumas, the chief medical officer of the French forces, declared him insane. His mental disease is well recognized by alienists.

Few persons have the same opportunity to indulge his murderous mania as the deposed King Than Thai of Annam had. He chose his wives from the whole kingdom. They were divided into two classes. The wives of the first class were chosen from the daughters of leading personages of the country and comparatively few in number. The wives of the second class were chosen from a kind of opera house that is maintained in connection with the royal palace. They were thoroughly trained to dance and sing in order to amuse King before they were admitted to the harem.

An early symptom of the King's approaching insanity was shown by the extraordinary ballets and dances in which he trained these women to take part. He forced them to give spectacles which were literally realizations of a madman's dreams. He spent his whole time training them to give these exhibitions and neglected to oppress his male subjects. At first he allowed these spectacles to be held openly, and the few foreigners resident in his kingdom were invited to be present; but as his mania assumed a more bloodthirsty form he became secretive, and this course aroused suspicion concerning his doings.

The territory of Than Thai is extensive and wealthy. It contains a population of 6,000,000. His principal palace is an extraordinary specimen of Oriental architecture. It is somewhat Chinese in character, but has many peculiarities of its own. It is covered all over with carving of amazing minuteness, which required almost incredible labor to execute. The palace covers 400 acres, its size being made chiefly necessary by the vast extent of the harem. No one is allowed to enter without taking off his sandals or shoes at the door. A still more remarkable rule is that no dead person is allowed to be carried out by the door. The body must be lifted out through the roof and removed in that way.

The King still occupies the palace, because it would be difficult to keep him elsewhere without separating him from his thousand wives and his numerous children. His son and successor being only eight years old and still unmarried, does not require much space.

Since his murderous outbreak the King has been kept under close surveillance by French medical officers, and they now give their opinion that he is cured. In fact, he is quite an amicable and entertaining companion. It is well known that the shocking mania from which he suffered may easily pass away. In fact, the cheerful companionship of French officers and the knowledge that somebody is at hand to check the indulgence of his mania, would do much to cure him.

Nevertheless, it is doubtful if the King is permanently cured and this makes the prospect of letting him loose among the curious and susceptible female population of Paris a very uncertain and dangerous one.

Cant Hart Bryan.

The Washington Herald says "Mr. Bryan's quarrel is with that section of the press which labels itself 'democratic,' yet disagrees with Mr. Bryan's definition of democracy. We shall not attempt to compose his quarrel. It has been going on since 1896, but if it was seriously damaged Mr. Bryan's reputation, the injury is not apparent on the surface.

"Mr. Bryan, in fact, is and has been one of the most bountifully misrepresented men in public life. The conception of him continually presented by a certain section of the press to its confiding readers is distorted and malicious. No attempt is made to appraise the man at his real value. No effort is made to account for his popularity, or to analyze the source of his political strength.

"The result is that to many 'constant readers' the name of Bryan evokes images of an oratorical windbag, a political juggler, or a mental freak. Mr. Bryan does not complain of this, but newspaper readers have every right to complain. They are entitled to something better than distortion and misrepresentation as a regular diet."

## Cause of the Trouble.

The Wall Street gamblers had a genuine scare during the past two weeks, and they are just now recovering from the miscarriage of the plans of a few men who tried to corner the copper market. As a result of this wild speculation great banking institutions have been badly shaken, a number of banks and gamblers have been put out of business, and large fortunes have changed hands. The losers are now hunting up more lambs from whom to recoup their vanished fortunes.

All this gambling was carried on with the money of the people. The gamblers go to the banks and borrow money with which to make their bets, giving as security stocks and bonds, the value of which is based upon their condition of the money market from day to day. The money these gamblers borrow from the bank represent the deposits of the people, not only of New York, but from all parts of the country, as local banks all over the country carry balances in these New York banks. It will thus be seen that the whole country is interested in this matter. The failure of a New York bank thus looting largely to speculators, may mean the embarrassment of any bank whose balance the former carries. So that a panic in New York, if extensive enough, may carry disaster to the whole country. These failures also depress the price of all commodities, and we would therefore advise our farmers not to sell their cotton until confidence is entirely restored.

Fortunately the trouble is about over for this time and no Southern interests was hurt, but we think it would be wise on the part of local banks over the country to keep as small balances in New York banks as they possibly can. If someone is not trying to corner copper, someone else is endeavoring to corner something else, and will so long as New York banks supply available funds. If this gambling in stocks must go on, let the gamblers furnish their own money.

## Narrow Minded Bigots.

Burnside Post of the Grand Army of the Republic has taken to task a Washington preacher for preaching in a truthful and somewhat eulogistic manner of Gen. Robt. E. Lee, in a school address. The preacher said "great as were his achievements as a general, splendid his victories on the field of battle, the greatest thing about Lee was his spirit. When defeat came upon him he was a man. He refused to expatriate himself; he took up life among his people and labored to make the Union real, strong and permanent."

In the preamble to the resolutions adopted by the post it is declared the "reverend gentleman, though expostulated with, had before this declared his intention to eulogize General Lee in public, and has since asserted that the majority of the comrades of the G. A. R., are in sympathy with his sentiments, and he has since written, 'I have no fears that time will not set me right.'"

In order to prevent time from setting him right, the Burnside post of the G. A. R., proceeded to make remarks and pass resolutions denouncing the preacher's allusion to Gen. Lee as unpatriotic and calculated to lead astray the youth of the land. The men who made fools of themselves by abusing the preacher are to be pitied rather than condemned. It must be remembered that the man for whom this post is named was thrashed and run off the field of Fredericksburg by Gen. Lee. Possibly the men who passed the resolution were with Burnside on that occasion.

## The New State.

The forty-sixth state of the Union is Oklahoma. It is interesting to know just what its admittance into the Union may do politically.

Oklahoma has elected four Democratic congressmen and one Republican. It may, therefore, make a difference of votes in the House of Representatives. Its legislature will elect two Democratic senators and these will give the Democrats of the Senate 31 votes, sufficient to prevent the ratification of a treaty, even if supported by a solid Republican majority.

It will have seven electors in the next electoral college, a number large enough, should the vote be close, to determine the next president of the United States. It will be represented in the national conventions by delegations of very respectable size which will have to be reckoned with in more ways than one. Consequently Oklahoma from the very beginning of its statehood is in position to wield a considerable influence on national affairs.

Yet partisan politics are, after all, not of much importance as loyalty to American principles. In its constitution which represents the sentiments of its people, Oklahoma is loyal to American principles. Therefore, its advent to participation more largely in governmental affairs should be regarded with gratification.

CONGRESSMAN Burleson of Texas has asked the national government to deposit money in southern banks so that the farmers might be financed in their cotton holding movement, and the request has been refused. "Why," asks the Spartanburg Journal, "is \$25,000,000 deposited in Wall Street banks to tide over a panic and a much smaller amount refused to southern banks to save the farmers from the depression of the price of their cotton?"

The Greenville News says: "With the stock market on the ragged edge, the Knickerbocker Trust Company going into the hands of a receiver, and Wall Street apparently convinced that a big financial panic was inevitable, it took some degree of moral courage for the man who 'had turned on the light' to stand up and say that he would not alter his course one iota nor swerve from the administration's fight against the illegal money powers." But he rushed fifty million dollars of government money to the relief of the gamblers all the same.

# ROOSEVELT HEDGING.

## He Hopes Case May Bedim the Brownsville Affair.

### Federal Department of Justice About to Open Fight for Southern Negroes Before Supreme Court.

A dispatch from Washington says Roosevelt's Department of Justice is about to fight a battle for the negroes of the South before the Supreme court of the United States that the administration hopes will bedim the recollection of the Brownsville affair. Attorney General Bonaparte has buckled on his sword, and the skirmish is now on. The case arises out of an alleged attempt of white men of Arkansas to frighten negroes who were working for the Arkansas Lumber Company, away from their jobs. Notices were posted warning the negroes from continuing at work. In this connection, a half dozen white men were convicted of violating the federal statute, enacted just after the adoption of the thirteenth amendment to the constitution, which makes it an offense to conspire, to threaten or to intimidate any citizen in the free exercise of his rights.

A little more than a year ago, the Supreme court liberated, in another case, certain men who had been convicted of a similar offense. With this situation, and it is understood, upon orders from the president, the attorney general, unwilling to entrust the task to a subordinate, himself has prepared to plead the cause of the colored men. In addition to his brief, already filed with the Supreme court, Bonaparte is expected to argue the case orally before the court when it comes up in about ten days for hearing.

"To be free is to be wholly free," says Bonaparte in his brief. "It does not mean that a man may merely have his personal liberties and at the same time be hedged about by prohibitions and restrictions and denied first one right and then another that belongs to free men. 'He can not have his full constitutional right unless he is in no sense whatever in involuntary servitude, and he may claim the protection of Federal law, if enacted by Congress, against the first infringement of his freedom, without waiting until he is stripped of all his rights and forced into a condition of absolute and abject slavery.'"

"The government contends that the right of a colored man to dispose of his own service, to pursue any legitimate occupation or employment is a right secured to him by the thirteenth amendment to the constitution, and that to deprive him of the enjoyment of that right is to enforce upon him one of the inseparable and necessary incidents or badges of slavery."

"If individuals can combine to hinder the negro, because of his race, in the pursuit of employment, they can, by persistent, progressive acts, at last deprive him of every right, the free enjoyment of which is necessary to keep him from returning into practical bondage."

## Why Bryan Is Strong.

In pointing out the reason why Mr. Bryan is strong with the masses the people the New Orleans Daily States says "it is well to remark that it was William J. Bryan who in 1896 seeing the magnificent system of thievery which had been established in 'the garden of America's richest prosperity' denounced it and arrayed himself against it. For doing this that element of the Democracy which shared in the spoils of the system deserted to the Republican camp, and he was denounced far and wide as an anarchist, a socialist and even as an 'enemy of the republic.'"

"Today the men who have been his foremost opponents and who posed in two campaigns as champions of 'the national honor' stand before the country as unmasked thieves, whose morals and methods are on a par with those of a sneak thief or a footpad. Yet there are people foolish enough to wonder why Bryan is strong, and who are apparently unable to understand that his strength with the masses of the people is vastly increased with every disclosure of the thievery of high finance of which there have been many, and more are yet to come.

"The absolute justice of the challenge which he flung to corporate wealth in 1896 and 1900, is today receiving a bountiful measure of vindication. Bryan, the chosen of the people, stands at this moment unscathed in spite of intrigue, abuse and misrepresentation, while a score or more of men who have fought him savagely under the banner of the so-called 'safe and sane' Democracy are struggling to keep out of jail for stealing or have become objects of public pity and contempt."

## Change of Heart.

In a recent issue of his excellent paper, the Gaffney Ledger, Editor DeCamp makes this honest confession:

Ever since Mr. Bryan enunciated his famous free silver doctrine we have looked upon him as an extremist, and we have never felt like supporting him for the presidency, although he was twice nominated by the Democratic party. His recent advocacy of government ownership of railroads has strengthened our opinion that he was a crank; but since we have met him personally, and discussed these vital issues in person, and hearing his speech in our city last Friday, our opinion of the man has changed. There is no foolishness about him. He is a plain American citizen and withal a big man, a very big man, in fact we believe he is the biggest man in America.

## FARMERS TRIUMPH.

### Held Their Tobacco Until They Got Their Price.

By a deal consummated at Henderson, Ky., on last Thursday the Imperial Tobacco Company purchased the entire 1907 tobacco crop pledged to the American Society of Equity in Henderson, Union, Webster, Hopkins and Crittenden counties.

The deal involves sixteen million pounds of tobacco and will bring one and a half million dollars of English money to the farmers of that section. The price paid was that demanded by the farmers, and is the highest ever paid there, with the exception of the war price.

The deal was consummated by Stokes Taylor, chairman of the board of directors of the Stemming District Tobacco Association and Edward Hodge, manager of the Imperial company. Negotiations have been on for more than a week.

Equity employes are taken over by the Imperial company and will be continued in service. Deliveries will begin as soon as the tobacco is in order. The gold will be shipped from England at once.

## DEATH OF OLD WOMAN.

### She Was One Hundred and Nineteen Years Old.

Lottie Poston, a negro, died in Carrollton, Ga., Thursday, and in her death the oldest negro in that state passed away. It is well known that the woman had reached the advanced age of 119 years. She had been a ward of the county since she was 110 years old. She is survived by a son who is ninety years of age.

## HUMAN MONSTER.

### Burned His Wife's Eyes Out With Strong Acid.

At Lawton, Okla., John Hopkins burned out his wife's eyes by throwing carbolic acid in her face during a quarrel. He is in jail, which is heavily guarded to prevent summary vengeance by his enraged neighbors.

## GROWING FATTER.

### Peanut Philosopher Believes He Has Established His Claim.

At Aurora, Ill., Dr. T. J. Allen, the peanut philosopher, has gained three and one-quarter pounds on his "goose" diet. He believes he has established his claim that the peanut is fattening. Today is the experimenter's fourteenth day of his sixty days run on peanuts.

## SAW WIERD PHANTOM.

### Had Premonition of Disastrous Explosion in Indiana.

John Walsh, who was engineer of the Big Four passenger train which was blown up while passing a car of powder at Sandford, Ind., last spring, testified in the hearing of the personal injury damage suits against the railroad, that as he came alongside the freight train he had a premonition and then saw a phantom in front of his headlight, whereupon he applied the emergency brakes, immediately following which came the explosion.

One of the theories as to the cause of the crash has been that the brakes threw out sparks which entered the powder car.

## Nitrogen as a Fertilizer.

Nitrogen is one of the most inert of all elements apparently indifferent to whether it combines with other elements or not. It is one of the most important of all elements. Although it exists in the atmosphere all around us and really constitutes 4-5 of the whole volume of the atmosphere, yet it is the most expensive part of all feed stuffs and fertilizers, and at the same time the most essential.

No plant could grow without a supply of nitrogen in the soil and no animal could flourish without nitrogen in the feed. It would seem that any article so perfectly abundant as nitrogen and as free as it would seem to be in the surrounding air ought not to be expensive. It has been the dream of scientists for 100 years to recover this nitrogen from the air and thus make it available for plant and animal food, but the manner of doing this has eluded them all until within the past year or two. It now seems that some parties at Niagara Falls are undertaking the production of nitrogen from the atmosphere. This has not yet come to be a commercial success, but probably will be at some future time.

In the meantime, all the quarters of the earth have been ransacked for source of available nitrogen for fertilizers and feed stuffs. Among the first efforts to find large quantities of fertilizer containing nitrogen and other necessary elements was working the Peruvian Guano deposits. These have long since been exhausted and this has led to the manufacture of what is called artificial fertilizer.

The principal source of nitrogen for these fertilizers was at first the Chili Salt-petre beds. These still supply large quantities of nitrate of soda, which is used in some forms of fertilizer, but by far the most important source of all nitrogen in all fertilizers and feed stuffs at the present time, is cotton seed meal. The gradually increasing cotton crops and the rapidly increasing number of oil mills makes cotton seed abundant and cheap. It is the most easily handled of all nitrogenous materials. At the same time it is one of the most easily assimilated. This is true of both plants and animals. All farmers in the cotton region are especially blessed on account of this proximity to oil mills and their consequent easy ability to purchase this most valuable feed stuff and fertilizer at prices which are really much below the actual value as compared with other sources of nitrogen.

## STRUCK BY SEVERE GALE.

### Twenty Persons Injured and Much Property Injured.

A northwest storm of short duration with heavy rain, passed over Galveston, Texas, early Thursday. The wind attained a velocity of 72 miles an hour for two minutes.

About twenty frame houses were blown down, one woman being killed in a falling structure. It is estimated that twenty persons were injured in the western part of the city, where the wind was severe.

Several business houses were unroofed and the stocks of goods were slightly damaged by water. The Malloy Line wharf shed was damaged to the extent of several thousand dollars. A few cars in the railroad yards were blown from the track. The gulf remained normal. There was no interruption to traffic.

## High Priced Beef.

In the World's Work Magazine there is an article entitled "Why the Price of Beef is High," by G. W. Ogden. The article carries a lesson to the people of the Southeast, and for these it might be entitled, "Why the people of the Southeast states should now raise cattle for beef." The article recites how the conditions are growing more and more unfavorable in the West for raising beef cattle. These conditions are comprised in the diminution of the grass lands by settlement, the increased adverse influence of droughts in the diminished area, the high price of feed stuffs and the increased demand for beef by increasing population, and also for export. The demand for beef is growing greater, and the supply is growing less in proportion.

All these influences tend to enhance the profits of cattle raising in the Southeastern cotton area. While the feed stuffs in the West have been diminishing on account of the decrease of the grass area, those in the Southeast have been increasing in the increased production of cotton seed hulls and meal.

There has always been in the Southeast, grass and forage enough to keep cattle 8 to 9 months in the year. The other 3 or 4 months without grass or forage was the only thing standing in the way of a profitable cattle business, even when the ranges in Texas and Oklahoma were, for practical purposes, unlimited. The cotton seed hull and meal, having supplied this deficiency, and the grass lands of the West being very much diminished, the Southeast is not only in position to compete, but is in a better position to raise cattle, and a corresponding increase in the price of dressed meat. This opens the second proposition bearing on high priced beef—the increased consumption at home and the growing export trade, against the comparative standstill of the live stock industry."

According to this opinion, the conditions are not only favorable now for the cattle raiser, but they will continue favorable for a long time to come. It is a question of the demand outweighing the supply. A Beef Trust could not limit the output of beef, if fat cattle were plentiful and cheap. If it were possible to buy all in sight and dress, store and keep the meat for an indefinite period such an action might be possible. But beef is perishable, and no man is bound down by laws prohibiting his killing and dressing meat for his own use and selling it to his neighbors. A capital of \$30 or \$40 is all that is required to open a butcher shop in a village when fat cattle sell at \$4.50 to \$5.00 a hundred. It is a business with so many possibilities that a Beef Trust could not block them all."

Thus it would seem that the farmers of the Southeast cotton growing states are now in fine situation to undertake the production of beef cattle with promise of good fair profit, and of the business being a lasting one.

The 156 miles of constructive work between Miami and Key West presents practically every problem known to railroad engineers. From Miami, for a distance, the road passes through heavy mangrove swamps, where there was too much water to use wheelbarrows and not enough to work a dredge. This difficulty was overcome by specially designed dredges.

The islands in the sea are of limestone formation, and in addition to being solid, they furnish excellent ballast. At the present time more than 3,000 men are crowded on the job. They are operating nine stern wheel boats, three tugs, 109 barges and lighters, 28 launches and upward of 50 pile drivers, concrete mixers, derricks, pump barges and dredges.

The paper trust has not only raised the price of print paper out of all reason, but, according to the newspaper men up North, it has bought up all the product of the Canada mills, so as it can compel the publishers of this country to pay its price. Yet some people doubt the existence of a paper trust.

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