

'KRAO'

THE 'MISSING LINK'

A LIVING PROOF OF

DARWIN'S THEORY OF THE DESCENT OF MAN

KRAO! FARINI'S WONDER OF WONDERS

KRAO! FARINI'S 'WHAT IS IT?'

ROYAL AQUARIUM

WESTMINSTER

Daily from 2 to 6, and 7 to 9

IN FARINI'S NEW LECTURE ROOM

Admission from the Street without entering the Aquarium

SOME OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

'A strange hairy little creature is now being exhibited at the Aquarium by Mr. Farini as "The Missing Link." Krao is not a monster, but a very bright-looking and intelligent child. The shoulders, arms, and body have a covering of hair from an inch to an inch and a half long.'—TIMES, *January 2, 1883.*

'In support of Mr. Farini's theory that the little creature is but half human, it may be stated that she has a double row of teeth on the upper jaw; that she can, in the hollow of her cheeks, stow away food to be eaten when required as the monkey does in his "pouches," and that the fingers and toes bend backwards and forwards to the same extent and with equal ease.'—STANDARD, *January 1, 1883.*

'Krao, introduced by that industrious wonder-seeker Mr. G. A. Farini, afforded a select party on Saturday a private view of what is undoubtedly worthy of public attention and careful scientific examination. Krao is of the feminine sex, and has nothing repulsive in her appearance. Her head is adorned with thick black hair. Her limbs and body are completely enveloped in a natural soft fur of a dark colour.'—DAILY TELEGRAPH, *January 1, 1883.*

'Krao is quite hidden beneath a thick growth of raven black hair. Her face, indeed, in spite of the thick hair about it, is not at all displeasing.'—DAILY NEWS, *January 1, 1883.*

'Krao possesses in several well-marked particulars the characteristics of a monkey. Still it must be added that in her appearance there is little, if anything, to repel, while beyond doubt there is much to excite a perfectly legitimate interest. There are many who condemn, and perhaps with justice, the taste which takes the form of looking upon "freaks of nature," but Krao, it must be recollected, does not come within that unwholesome category, because her peculiarities are hereditary. Farini has secured an attraction which the public are eager to see.'—MORNING POST, *January 1, 1883.*

'Krao is covered with long black fur-like hair. Medical opinion goes to show that the lower portion of the body is more like that of a monkey.'—DAILY CHRONICLE, *January 1, 1883.*

'Krao possesses hirsute developments such as probably were never seen on any human being since the days of Adam. From the thick black hair of the head descends a pair of luxuriant whiskers, and with the exception of the hands, her whole body is covered with a soft fur, longer on the arms and legs, but everywhere remarkable for its density.'—MORNING ADVERTISER, *January 2, 1883.*

'In addition to her hairy covering, the peculiarities that distinguish "Krao" from an ordinary human being are a double set of teeth in the upper jaw, the absence of certain muscles of the arm, and of the upper cartilage of the ear. The existence of an additional joint in the vertebræ is also held to indicate the possibility of the development of a rudimentary tail.'—THE GLOBE, *January 3, 1883.*

'New notice by Mr. Farini at the Aquarium:—"Krao," the strange hairy little creature, will receive company. N.B.—Entrance without knocking, ask for the Hairy Belle.'—PUNCH.

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FARINI'S WONDER OF WONDERS.

'K R A O,'

A LIVING SPECIMEN

OF

DARWIN'S 'MISSING LINK.'

The usual argument against the truth of the Darwinian Theory—that Man and Monkey had a common origin—has always been that no animal has hitherto been discovered in the transition state between 'Monkey' and 'Man.'

This 'Missing Link' is now supplied in the person of

'K R A O,'

A PERFECT SPECIMEN OF THE

**STEP BETWEEN MAN AND MONKEY,
DISCOVERED IN LAOS,**

BY

THE DISTINGUISHED TRAVELLER,

CARL BOCK.

AND

NOW EXHIBITING

AT

**THE ROYAL AQUARIUM,
WESTMINSTER,**

In Mr. Farini's new Lecture Room. Separate entrance without
passing through the Aquarium.



'KRAO,' THE MISSING LINK.

CHAPTER I.

FRANK BUCKLAND AND THE DARWINIAN THEORY.—HOW KRAO WAS DISCOVERED.—SEARCH FOR THE MISSING LINK.—EARLY PROOF OF ITS EXISTENCE.—AN EXPEDITION ORGANISED.—A 'HAIRY FAMILY' INTERVIEWED.—THREE GENERATIONS OF MEN COVERED WITH HAIR.—KING THEEBAW AND HIS HAIRY COURTIER.—HUNTING MEN-MONKEYS.—A NARROW ESCAPE FROM AN AWFUL DEATH.—THE ENGLISH TRAVELLER CONFOUNDS HIS ENEMIES.—ANOTHER CHILD HUMAN-MONKEY BORN.

'A GRAND idea, Farini! Why don't you send out an expedition in search of the "Missing Link"? You would discover it, if anybody could!'

These words were uttered some four years ago by the late Mr. Frank Buckland, while examining some photographs of a 'Hairy Family' living at Mandalay, which had been brought forward as a proof that there must be 'something' in the Darwinian theory that Man is allied to Monkey.

'Done, Frank! I'll start an expedition to-morrow, if you will take command, with "The Old Hag" and "Tiny" * as lieutenants! I'll provide the funds; you shall have all the fun; and I'll guarantee that we will astonish the natives between us.'

'If I could go all the way in a hansom cab I would try my luck. But what would the Hag and Tiny do if they were sea-sick?'

* The late Mr. Frank Buckland's pet monkeys.

Besides, I couldn't talk the lingo of the "Missing Link" if I found it!'

'Then ask Bartlett of the Zoo to go with you. He can talk Monkey as well as English. Or perhaps he could let you have "Joe," the Chimpanzee. Come, Frank, think what a chance it would be!'

With a merry twinkle in his eye the accomplished and genial naturalist laughingly declined the commission.

'But,' he said, 'why don't you go to Burmah yourself and get these very people in that photograph? You could easily persuade the King to let you exhibit them in Europe.'

This suggestion took root. Mr. Farini's enthusiasm was aroused; and from that moment he determined that if the 'Missing Link' really existed he would be the means of finding it and of bringing it to Europe.

It did not take him long to decide in what quarter of the world this search, which was destined to produce such startling results, should be made. Popular rumour and authentic record alike agreed in indicating that it was in the far East that the 'Missing Link' would most likely be discovered. It was from South-eastern Asia and the Cannibal Islands of the South Seas that persistent rumours of the existence of 'tailed' men were continually heard. In Borneo, in New Britain, and in many of the less known islands of the Eastern Archipelago and the South Pacific, many travellers had been solemnly assured by natives who had never heard of the 'Darwinian theory' that there lived, in the most inaccessible

mountains and forests, tribes of men possessed of tails. Even missionaries had been so impressed with the truth of these statements that they had undergone terrible hardships in their attempts to solve the mystery; but so far without success.

But tales of 'tailed men' were not the only evidence of the existence of the 'Missing Link.' A tail was not the only point of difference between men and monkeys. Monkeys are covered with hair, while man possesses a smooth skin, and there were ample proofs, not rumours only, of the existence of so-called 'hairy people' in the wilds of that continent in which the Garden of Eden is supposed to have existed. Fifty years ago the British Ambassador to Ava had himself seen and described a 'curiosity' in the shape of a man named Shwé-Maong, whose head, face, and whole body were covered with hair, and who possessed no molar teeth like human beings, but the canine teeth on which Darwin lays so much stress as one of the proofs of man's descent from monkey. This man had been presented, when quite a child, in 1801 or 1802, to the King of Burmah by the Sanbwa or chief of the Maiyong-gyi district of Laos. The creature was from its infancy perfectly covered with hair, and it was kept attached to the Court of the king, who highly prized the possession of such a rarity. It was twenty-five years old when the British Minister saw it at the king's palace, and it is described by him in the 'Journal of an Embassy to Ava,' as being completely enveloped in a natural fur, thickest on the head and face, but spreading over the whole body, to the extremities of the arms and legs.

This creature had, at the time of the British Minister's visit, been mated with a 'hairy woman' of the same race, by whom he had a daughter, named Maphoon, two and a half years old, who was also entirely covered with hair, an exact miniature of her parents, of whom a portrait, showing their extraordinary hairy covering, was published in the book above referred to.

Some years later Colonel Yule and the other members of a second British mission

to Burmah saw the child Maphoon, then grown up into a woman, with a hairy child, of whom a portrait and description were given in Yule's account of his 'Mission to the Court of Ava,' published in 1855. The child possessed in every respect the characteristics of its parents and grandparents, and thus there were three direct generations in the same family, all bearing unmistakable signs of a stage of intermediate development between monkey and man.

Here, then, was a solid foundation on which to organise a thorough search for the 'Missing Link'; and, as Mr. Farini found on further inquiry that many other travellers had seen not only the 'hairy' father and daughter but several other descendants of the same race, he determined to make Burmah the first scene of operations, and an expedition was sent out, with Mr. Edwin T. Sachs at its head, with orders to spare no expense and no effort in the endeavour to bring to Europe at least one, if not two or three 'Missing Links.'

Mr. Sachs went straight to Mandalay, and at once made inquiries about the 'hairy family of Ava.' He found out that Maphoon was still alive, with two children—the one a son and the other a daughter—whom Crawford and Yule had seen, the father being dead. The family was well known among the people, and the description they gave of them tallied exactly with that published in the works already referred to. But the greatest difficulty was placed in the way of his seeing them, the people being afraid that if anything happened to the 'king's men-monkeys' no end of heads would be cut off as a punishment. Through the good offices, however, of a Roman Catholic priest well known at Mandalay, Mr. Sachs ultimately succeeded in getting permission to inspect these extraordinary creatures, whose fame had excited the wonder of two sober ambassadors from the English Court to that of the King of Burmah, by whom they were so jealously guarded.

'I naturally anticipated,' says Mr. Sachs, 'something very much out of the common; but the sight itself far exceeded any precon-

ceived notions. The house we were taken to was an ordinary native one, of bamboo. Along the front was a rude kind of verandah, a couple of feet only in height, and a small door led from it to the interior of the dwelling. After waiting a considerable time, the door opened, and what at first appeared to be the head of a huge Skye terrier slowly made its appearance. As it was followed by a human body attached to it, I became aware of the fact that one of the hairy family was before me. The remaining two members followed, and all three—Maphoon, the mother, then fifty-five years of age, with her son and daughter—sat upon the edge of the rail-less verandah, awaiting inspection. The hairy covering of all of them was very much the same, that of the son—a young man of about twenty-five years of age—being the most plentiful and the longest. The face was literally covered, and the hair parted down the centre of the forehead and nose just as does that of a Skye terrier. Its texture was that of a beautiful glossy silk, as soft to the touch as down. Maphoon's was already grey; but the standard colour of her children's was a beautiful brown. Perhaps the most striking feature was a long lock at each side of the temple which hung low down, and which the man seemed to have the habit of stroking with the hand. The shoulders and upper arms were also covered with thick long hair, and the rest of the body and the legs were entirely and thickly clothed in a similar fashion, the characteristic of the hair being its soft, downy nature. The trio were very well built, the man remarkably so. The young woman's figure was buxom. So thick was the hair that it was impossible to distinguish the features, and no idea of them could be formed.

'The pictures published by Crawford and Yule are admirable likenesses of these remarkable people, and give a very good idea of their extraordinary appearance.

'I found that they were regarded as part and parcel of the Court, and there was thus no chance of being able to bring any of them to Europe. An Italian had actually offered to marry Maphoon, with the idea of

taking her away; but the king had indignantly refused the offer, and I think that the Italian was glad to get away with his own head on his shoulders.

'Nevertheless I tried hard to come to terms with those who were in charge of these wonderful people. Bribes were freely offered, but had no effect, even in this country of bribery and corruption, and I was compelled to leave with the conviction that, if I could not secure this prize, no one else would be able to do so.'

Finding that the king resolutely opposed all offers to part with these strangers, members of his Court, and that the people were so afraid of their bloodthirsty and treacherous sovereign that no bribe would induce them to risk their heads by letting him secretly carry one of them off, Mr. Sachs determined to start for Laos himself, and to find the country in which these people are generally reported to be found.

But just as all his arrangements were complete, the king himself gave orders for a party of trusted Ministers to start off, and bring home a husband and wife of the same race as Maphoon, for her daughter and son to marry. This news frustrated Mr. Sachs' plan, but he determined to join the expedition, and actually succeeded in gaining admission to the king's Court, and asked to be appointed the leader. Being a clever conjuror, he exhibited some of his powers of legerdemain before the Court, and represented that they would be of material assistance among the wild tribes of the Ngiou States, to the borders of which the expedition was to be sent, and at last so played upon the king's hopes and fears that he was appointed to the supreme command, on the understanding that, if he brought a wife or a husband to mate with either of Maphoon's children, he should have Maphoon herself and the other child and bring them to Europe.

For some time all went well, but when the expedition reached the most dangerous part of the country, the native attendants refused to obey orders. It was well known that the Ngiou inhabitants were robbers and

murderers, and the people were evidently afraid to venture among them; try what he would, Sachs could not prevail upon them to advance, and at last his followers, secretly urged by the high officials, who were jealous of his appointment, openly defied him, and seized him, making him a prisoner in his own camp. Then, determining to return, but afraid to take Sachs back with them, and yet not daring to kill him outright, they bound him hand and foot, telling him that he was to be hung to the branch of a tree till he should die of starvation, or be torn to pieces by wild beasts. In this dreadful doom, Sachs saw an opportunity to escape. Under pretence of submitting resignedly to his fate, he brought into play the knowledge which, as a conjuror, he had gained of the manner in which the 'spiritualists' escape when bound apparently securely with cords, by extending his powerful muscles to their fullest extent, so that the ropes which seemed to cut into his flesh would become loose and harmless when he should have the opportunity of relaxing them.

Fortunately it was early morning, and the natives were anxious to get away, so he was hurried through the pinioning operation and, pretending all the time to be in a half-stupefied state, he soon found himself slung by hands and feet to the branch of a huge tree—and left there, as his persecutors thought, to perish.

When the last sound of the tramp of the elephants crashing through the undergrowth had died away, he, by a superhuman effort of his powerful muscles, managed to swing himself right round the branch, and, the tension on the cords being thus released, it was but the work of a moment for him to free himself from their coils.

His subsequent privations while retracing his steps to Mandalay may be imagined. By keeping close behind the returning expedition, he was enabled to pick up fragments of food, and one night actually entered the camp and managed to secure some clothing and his own double-barrelled gun and ammunition case, which one of the native leaders had appropriated. Thus he was

relieved from the fear of being killed by wild beasts, and was also able to shoot some game for food.

Ultimately reaching Mandalay, by a roundabout route, one day in advance of the returning expedition, he went to the house of the Roman Catholic priest, whom he had met before, and who had been very kind to him, and kept in hiding until the expedition returned. Awaiting his opportunity, he suddenly appeared before the king and the people just as the highest official, by name Cheng-Shai, who had taken command of the expedition on the return journey, was representing to the king that Sachs had been killed, and the expedition had been driven back by the hostility of the Ngion natives, who, he said, had set the whole forest on fire, when they found themselves being beaten by the valiant representatives of the Burmese king!

The excitement in the palace when the dead European appeared in the flesh to denounce his betrayers was intense. No one dared touch him. They did not know whether he was a spirit or real flesh and blood. At last he justified himself before the king, and had the satisfaction of seeing his enemies disgraced.

His supreme object, however, the possession of the 'hairy people,' was not yet to be fulfilled. The king refused to part with Maphoon, or either of her children, although Sachs pleaded that his failure was owing to the treachery of the king's own people, and was not through any fault of his own. But the king was inexorable, and Mr. Sachs determined to search elsewhere for his prize.

King Theebaw, disappointed in his hope of obtaining a mate for either of Maphoon's children, in order to perpetuate the breed in his own capital, ordered the two to be brought together, the result being the birth of a young one possessing all the characteristics of its predecessors, thus establishing a fourth generation, born under the very eye, as it were, of the Court of the King of Burmah, and proving incontestably the present permanence of this remarkable type of humanity.

CHAPTER II.

THE JACOONS.—THE WILD MEN OF THE WOODS OF MALACCA.—VISITED BY EUROPEANS.—THE EXPEDITION STOPPED BY HOSTILE NATIVES AND SICKNESS.—PERAK AND SUMATRA VISITED.—MORE MISSING LINKS.—CARL BOCK UNDERTAKES THE SEARCH.—MEN WITH TAILS IN BORNEO.—A TAILED MAN CAPTURED.

HAVING read and heard of the existence of a wild race of people called 'Jacoons' in the Malay Peninsula, who were reported to closely resemble the 'hairy people' of Laos, Mr. Sachs went straight to Singapore, determined to leave no stone unturned in his search for the 'Missing Link.' The Jacoons were the common talk of the people in Singapore, especially as two Europeans were staying in that city who had not long before penetrated into the interior of the Malacca forests, where they had actually seen these people. They described them as living in the woods entirely naked, but covered with natural hair; and they represented them as very closely resembling another and entirely distinct race of people inhabiting the interior of the Malay Peninsula behind the high range of mountains, who had been described in Bradley's work entitled 'Travel and Sport in Burmah, Siam, and Malay.' The author of that book and a Captain Lacy came upon these people on three or four occasions, and found them living in a state that was as low and as bestial as the beasts of the field. They went entirely naked, and lived in nests made from twigs and branches, high up in the trees. When Mr. Bradley came upon one of these curious human rookeries he says that the people 'commenced to swarm to the ground—men, women, and children—all completely naked, their bodies thickly covered with hair.'

Mr. Sachs' ardour was fired by this information, and he started off in pursuit of these people. He reached Northern Malacca only to find that the visit of his predecessors had so excited the anger of the natives that it was hopeless to conciliate

them, and he narrowly escaped a horrible death at their hands. He was forced to beat a hasty retreat, buoyed up, however, with the hope of better luck in Perak. Here, again, his hopes were frustrated, this time by an attack of smallpox and dysentery, which very nearly proved fatal, and invalidated him for over three months.

Disappointed, but not disheartened, Mr. Sachs, being advised to take change of air to recruit his health, crossed over to Sumatra, in the highlands of which there were rumours of the existence of another extraordinary race of men answering in several respects to the ideal 'Missing Link.' Illness prevented him from making a thorough search; but during his travels in the forests of the interior of the island, he fell in at Ajer Mantjoer with Mr. Carl Bock, the celebrated oriental traveller, who was also keeping an eye open for the prize which Mr. Farini had offered for the first living specimen of the 'Missing Link.'

Mr. Bock had already been on two expeditions for Mr. Farini in another part of the world—once on a hunt for walrus in the Arctic seas, and again on a tour through Lapland, collecting the troupe of Lapps, whose appearance in London, with all the curious paraphernalia of their life amid the snows and ice of the regions round the North Pole, caused so much excitement in 1878.

The narrative of Mr. Sachs' adventures only stimulated the ardour of the other traveller, who was just then about to make his celebrated and dangerous journey through some of the most difficult regions of Borneo, amid the 'head hunters,' and the cannibals, and the Dyaks of poisoned-arrow celebrity in that savage island.

Mr. Farini offered to pay a share of the expenses of this undertaking if Mr. Bock would make a point of still keeping up the inquiry for the 'Missing Link,' and it was during this journey that the traveller heard from the Sultan of Koetei, and others whose authority was not to be doubted, that there lived in the Passir mountains a race of tailed men, who, in a state of

complete savagedom, had to dig holes in the ground to accommodate their tails when they wanted to sit down. Carl Bock's adventures in search of these people, and the mission of one of the Sultan's chief attendants, who had seen the tailed men, and nearly lost his head while in search of a specimen for Mr. Bock, are recorded in that author's work on the 'Head Hunters of Borneo.' Wherever he went, rich and poor, princes and peasants assured him that they did exist and had been seen, but he failed to secure one of these extraordinary people, and returned to Europe, as did Mr. Sachs also, to report to Mr. Farini the apparent impossibility of fulfilling his wish.

It has since been reported, however, in the *Field* of November 4, 1882, that one of these 'tailed men' has been discovered by an official in the South of Borneo.

CHAPTER III.

THE LAST MISSION TO LAOS.—CARL BOCK IN SIAM.—HUMAN ORANG-OUTANGS AT BANGKOK AND KAMBUNA.—A SEARCH IN THE JUNGLE.—A HUMAN MONKEY ESCAPES CAPTURE.—HOW AND WHERE THEY LIVE.—NATIVE LEGENDS ABOUT THE WILD HAIRY PEOPLE.

NOTHING daunted, however, by the want of success of these expeditions, or by the enormous expenses which they had entailed, Mr. Farini was only the more determined to succeed; and when Mr. Bock started on his journey to Siam in 1881, Mr. Farini, with characteristic determination, renewed his offer of a prize, and generously came forward to bear a share of the costs of the expedition.

To Mr. Bock's antiquarian and ethnological researches was therefore again added the renewed search for the 'Missing Link,' and his journey, dangerous enough under ordinary circumstances, and in the pursuit of his other studies, was rendered doubly difficult by the superstitions of the people,

and their unwillingness to assist him in such a matter.

'One of the first things I saw in Bangkok,' says Mr. Bock, 'on making inquiries about the hairy race of men, was a photograph of a most extraordinary orang-outang-like old man, who, besides being endowed with the same prominently rounded stomach which is so characteristic of that animal, had his whole body covered with long hair. The appearance of this man bore so striking a resemblance to what I had considered as the typical "Missing Link," that I determined, if possible, to find him and see him in the flesh. All the particulars I gathered about him in Bangkok, among those who had seen him, agreed in representing him as almost exactly similar to the "hairy family of Ava," and when I was told that he had come from Laos I at once remembered that this was the same country from which the hairy people at Ava had originally come. Ultimately I traced this man to Lampun, but on arriving there I learnt, to my chagrin, that the "man-monkey," as he was called, had died a week previously. I, however, was shown his grave, and actually saw his body, which was exactly like those of the Ava family. Soon afterwards I was told of another white-bearded "man-monkey," who had been seen in the neighbourhood some time previously, but was unable to trace him. Wherever I went, however, the same positive statement was made that there was a regular tribe of such people. Inquiring where their home was, I was always told either in Laos or in Ngion.

'Near Kambuna I met a Chinaman, who assured me that he had come across several of these people in their native haunts amid the forests and mountain fastnesses of Laos.'

After much bargaining, and the promise of a large reward if he would take him to the spot and help him capture one, a true hairy man, this Chinaman undertook to direct Mr. Bock to the district in which they were most likely to be seen.

When they reached the borders of the Ngion States he led Mr. Bock some distance through the jungle, in the woods beyond

which, he said, the human monkeys wandered about in a wild state.

Presently they came to a clearance in the forest, when in a moment, a being, of human-like form, but covered with hair, sprang to his feet, and rushed away, shrieking, into the jungle. This hasty glance was very disappointing, for Mr. Bock's guide asserted positively that the strange creature was one of the hairy people. This, however, was the last they saw of him, and as the Chinaman said he had completed his bargain, and was evidently in such a state of fear that he could not be induced to go a step further, Mr. Bock had to give up the search, not, however, without making an effort, alone and unaided as he was, to trace the strange being who had so suddenly vanished from his sight.

Mr. Bock felt, however, that he was at last actually 'on the spot,' and renewed his inquiries about the 'hairy men,' or 'human monkeys' among the native princes and people. Still the same reply:—

'Yes, they live in the jungle, where the wild elephants roam. But they are as timid as the deer, and cannot easily be approached.'

The description which the different natives gave of these people represented them as dwelling amid forests and mountains, where they had held communion with none but members of their own peculiar tribe, where they had existed—who can say how many centuries? surrounded by tigers and bears, by leopards and panthers, by elephants and rhinoceri, by snakes and crocodiles, and last, but not least, by various species of monkeys, of whom they were, and yet were not, one; supporting life on the wild fruits and roots of the forest, or slaying with their own hands, without weapons, all unarmed and unclothed as they were, other than the stones that they gathered on the ground, or the sticks that they wrenched from the forest trees, the animals whose flesh they preferred.

As to the origin of these people, many legends were current among the natives. According to one such legend, when the first man was turned out of Paradise some

of his children refused to clothe themselves with the skins of animals, and, as a punishment, were driven away in an opposite direction to the rest of the family, and condemned to live in a secluded part of the 'Ceiling of the World,' with a hairy skin growing naturally upon them and their descendants.

Another tradition was that when Esau, or the person answering to Esau in the Buddhistic mythology, was robbed of his birthright, he cursed his father and his brother, and took himself off, in anger, to wander whithersoever his feet might take him, and was punished for cursing his own flesh and blood by having all his descendants for ever marked with this peculiar sign.

A third legend, with more poetic justice, has it that after Jacob had succeeded in robbing Esau of his birthright, by the stratagem of covering his face and his hands with the skin of a goat, he was compelled to change his own skin for a thick hairy fur, which had ever since clung to him and his immediate descendants, who, to hide his shame and theirs, had penetrated to an unknown part of the world.

CHAPTER IV. *

A HUMAN MONKEY CAUGHT AT LAST.—HE ESCAPES INTO THE JUNGLE.—TWO EXPEDITIONS ORGANISED.—A WHOLE FAMILY CAPTURED.—FATHER, MOTHER, AND DAUGHTER OF THE HAIRY RACE.—THEIR APPEARANCE AND LANGUAGE.—KRAO BROUGHT DOWN TO THE COAST.—DEATH OF KRAO'S FATHER.—HIS PORTRAIT.—KRAO BROUGHT TO EUROPE.

THIS belief in the existence of a race of 'human monkeys' was so strong and persistent, and was corroborated in so many different ways, that Mr. Bock publicly announced his intention of catching one alive, and offered a reward to anyone who would either bring him one or take him where they could be found.

The news consequently spread that Mr. Bock wanted to obtain a 'man-monkey'; and one day, while staying at Petchabauree, he was visited by a native who said he could conduct him to a hut in the forest, distant about a day's march, in which a 'human monkey,' about ten years of age, was living, who had been captured about a week previously.

'I at once arranged,' says Mr. Bock, 'to start at sunrise on the following morning, and with two of my servants, and the native as a guide, followed a slight track through the forest for eight or ten miles, when the guide turned suddenly off through the thicket, and conducted us some distance further, till we came to a small hut, which the guide entered, telling me to wait outside while he went in to prepare the "man monkey" for my visit.

'On entering the hut I beheld what I took for a strange animal, crouching down in a corner, with his back covered with such thick hair that at first I thought it was a bear.

"Behold the man-monkey," said my guide, and motioned me to approach.

'The creature was very much frightened when I stooped down to touch it, and the guide was obliged to hold him to prevent him from running away.

'On closer inspection I found it was a man-like being, very ape-like in facial expression, with thick matted hair on the head, and the back and arms covered with long soft hair, and the legs and other parts of the body were covered, but less thickly, with a soft down.

'While trying to arrange with the guide and two other natives who were in the hut to bring the strange creature away with me, he took advantage of a moment when we were off our guard to leap through the half-open door, and with a few quick bounds he was lost in the jungle. I at once started in pursuit, but never saw him again.

'My guide was very angry with me for being the innocent cause of the escape of the man-monkey, and I could only pacify him by a heavy bribe, and by appointing him to

take charge of an expedition which I organised to make a systematic search for the strange people, of whose existence there could not now be any doubt. I myself took command of a second expedition, with a like object, amid the greatest opposition on the part of the natives, whose goodwill I had to purchase at every turn.

'I returned disappointed, after a fruitless search extending over three weeks; but what was my delight to discover that my lieutenant had preceded me, bringing with him not one, but THREE MEMBERS of the TRIBE of HUMAN MONKEYS—father, mother, and child.

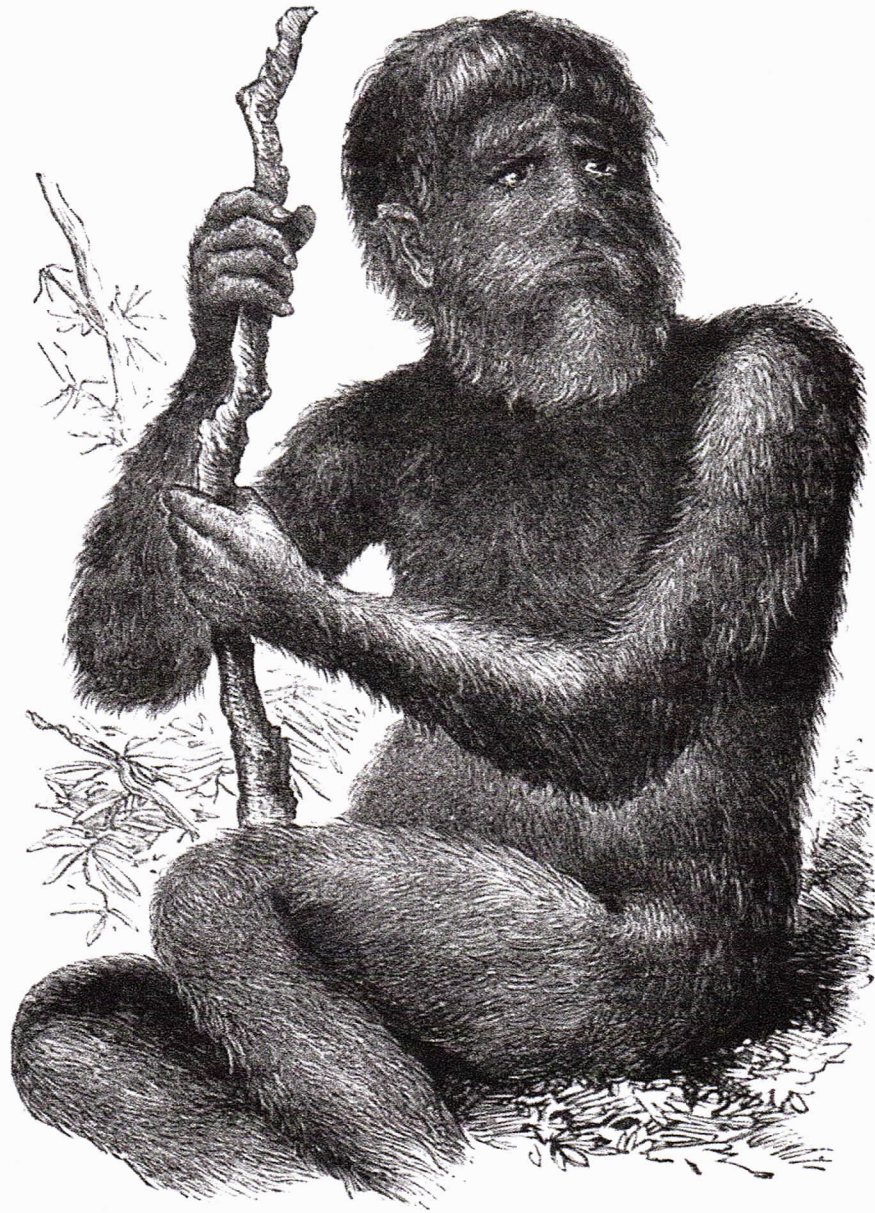
'The account of this successful search I will give in the words of the leader of the party:

"After four days' laborious march through the jungle, passing several herds of wild elephants on our way, we came to an opening in the forest in which we found traces of the presence of some peculiar animal, with which we were not familiar, and which, on careful examination, we concluded must be the human monkey. The order was then given that the party should separate and form a ring, each individual concealing himself behind a tree, or rock. In this way a keen look-out was kept, both on the ground and in the branches of the trees, till suddenly I descried a brown-skinned object approaching, which I took to be a bear. My gun was raised to fire at the creature, when it slowly raised itself into an upright position, and proved itself to be nothing less than that man-monkey there"—at these words the native pointed to one of his captives. "A moment later one of my men near me saw a similar apparition, and uttered a cry which frightened them both. I immediately cried out:

"Hunt the man-monkey, but do not shoot," and rushing forward I gave chase to the one I had seen at first.

"I had only gone a few steps when I nearly stumbled over a smaller creature of the same race which I shouted to Shan-Hi to catch, whilst I and two others ran after the other two. When I overtook the man he





PORTRAIT OF KRAO'S FATHER.

turned round and kicked and struck out at me like a demon, and I had the greatest difficulty in preventing him from clasping me in his arms and biting me. At last, with the help of others, I managed to get his arms secured by a rattan rope, and when he found he had met his master he quietly submitted to be firmly bound by hands and feet.

"In the meantime the little one yonder gave much more trouble, biting and snapping at everyone, and rolling on the ground all the time, till at last it also was secured.

"The mother, who had been dodging about while the child was being made fast, came boldly forward when she saw no chance of its escape, and was easily secured."

A glance at these interesting creatures showed that I had at last secured the object of my search. The creatures were then quite quiet, and had apparently already become "tame." They sat passively while I touched and examined them, although my white skin was evidently a source of wonder to them. They already began to take an interest in their surroundings, and to show their appreciation of the comforts with which they were provided. They were also picking up a word or two of Malay, although, when first found, they spoke in a gibberish which none of my men could understand. Whenever the child moved away from them the parents uttered a peculiar plaintive cry, "*Kra-o! Kra-o!*" to which she seemed to answer, and which we adopted as her future name.

A fortnight before the day on which Mr. Bock left Laos for Bangkok, the 'man-monkey'—the father of 'Krao'—was seized with cholera, and died. A portrait of him, however, is given in the accompanying woodcut. It gives, Mr. Bock states, a perfect likeness of this extraordinary being, who needs, therefore, but few words of description.

His whole body was completely covered with a thick hairy coat, exactly like that of the anthropoid apes. On his face not only had he a heavy bushy beard and whiskers, similar in every respect to the hairy family at the Court of the King of Burmah, who also came from the same region as that in which Krao and her father were found, but

every part was thoroughly enveloped in hair. The long arms and the rounded stomach also proclaimed his close alliance to the monkey form, while his power to speak, and his intelligence, were so far developed that before his death he was able to utter a few words of Malay.

Mr. Bock was now anxious to get down to the coast without delay. But the King of Laos, having heard of the discovery of the human monkeys, tried all he could to prevent him. His elephants were taken away, two of his servants were locked up, and Mr. Bock was a virtual prisoner. He at first used entreaties, then bribes, and at last threats, to gain his liberty, and to get permission to take away his treasures; but for nearly a month he was prevented from stirring. 'Krao' herself and her mother were anxious, as her father also had been, to accompany Mr. Bock, having been made to understand that if they went with him they would have plenty of food, warm shelter, and kind treatment. But the king resolutely refused to allow them to do so. At one time he threatened to keep Mr. Bock a permanent prisoner. At last, however, the traveller was permitted to leave, having threatened the King of Laos with the anger of the King of Siam if he detained him longer. Displaying the various documents and orders with which the King of Siam had furnished him before he left Bangkok, Mr. Bock so worked upon the fears of the native ruler that he obtained liberty to depart with 'Krao,' but upon the condition that two chiefs should accompany him to Siam, and make formal complaint at the Court of Bangkok against the 'human monkey' being taken out of the country. He absolutely refused to let the mother go away at all. At last Bangkok was reached in safety, and here also considerable difficulty was encountered before Mr. Bock was able to make the people thoroughly understand the object for which he wished to bring 'Krao' to Europe. Their interest, however, was aroused when they were made to understand that there was a popular belief in Europe that man and monkey had a com-

mon origin; and that it was intended to exhibit 'Krao' as the long-sought-for 'connecting link' in proof of this theory.

The people could hardly credit that learned Europeans should have such a belief; but Mr. Bock pointed out that the national superstition of the Siamese that the white elephants were the receptacles of the souls of their dead princes was still more extraordinary, but was respected by Europeans, and he urged that the Siamese ought to be willing to assist Europeans in their researches in connection with the theory of the Descent of Man.

When Mr. Bock stated that he intended that 'Krao' should be entrusted to the care of Mr. Farini, by whom he said that 'Krao' would be far better cared for in Europe than she possibly could be in the wild country which was her original home, Prince Kromalat at once replied that he had already heard of the Great Showman, and at last the traveller received permission to bring away 'Krao' on condition that she should be formally adopted by Mr. Bock, on behalf of Mr. Farini, as his adopted daughter.

A formal document was accordingly drawn up, which is now in Mr. Farini's possession.

CHAPTER V.

KRAO DESCRIBED—HER HAIRY BODY AND MONKEY-LIKE FORM—PORTRAIT OF KRAO—HER BEAUTIFUL EYES—MONKEY AND HUMAN CHILD IN ONE—A RUDIMENTARY TAIL—HER LANGUAGE.

THOUGH her father unfortunately died, 'Krao' was brought safely to Europe by Mr. Bock. As already stated, her name is the exact representation of the sound *Kra-o!* *Kra-o!* which her parents uttered as a sort of calling or warning cry when first found, and she now promptly responds to the name.

'Krao' herself bears a strong resemblance to her father, and affords in every feature a perfect proof of the extraordinary position which she holds as the 'missing link' between man and monkey.

From the crown of her head to the sole of her feet she is covered with long fur-like hair, jet black in colour, and quite soft to the touch.

From her eyebrows upwards her whole head is adorned with thick jet-black hair, of a rather coarse texture, while the face, arms, hands, legs and feet, and whole body are completely enveloped in a natural soft fur of black hair, entirely covering her dark skin. The nose is level with the rest of the face, as in a monkey, and in her full rounded pouch-like cheeks she will stuff food just as a monkey does.

But Krao is by no means ill-looking, as her portrait will show. Her eyes are strikingly beautiful—large and full, proclaiming her human affinity. How many a fair lady will envy Krao those full and sparkling eyes! How their dark lustre would be set off on a fair skin!

In her habits Krao is half human, half monkey. As a rule she is as playful, as gentle, as good tempered as any child could be: she will grin with delight at anyone who plays with her, and loves a romp. But let a little thing offend her, and she shoots out her lips, just like a chimpanzee, darts angry looks at her enemy, tears her hair, rolls violently on the floor, or utters a moaning sort of cry, or sulks and stands rubbing her eyes with her knuckles. One remarkable feature is the fact that her joints are as flexible as those of any monkey. With the greatest ease she can twist her fingers in all directions, while the whole hand can be bent backwards almost to a right angle.

With her feet she can pick up any small object from the floor with as much ease as with her hands, and she has the unmistakable monkey-like habit of turning the soles of her feet up flat when sitting down.

Although she does not possess an actual tail, she has the rudiments of one, and the formation of the lower part of the body is altogether more like that of a monkey than a human child.

It has often been said that a monkey will not speak because he knows that if he did he would be made to work. Krao, at any rate,

can speak, just a little. She has a slight smattering of Malay, picked up during her stay in Bangkok, and has added to her vocabulary a few words of English.

CHAPTER VI.

BEARDED WOMEN.—'THROWING BACK,' OR REVERSION TO ORIGINAL TYPE.—THE DARWINIAN THEORY.—ITS HISTORY.—ITS FINAL PROOF IN THE PERSON OF KRAO.

A GLANCE at the portrait will show that Krao is an entirely different being from the 'bearded women,' and other curiosities that have from time to time been exhibited in London and elsewhere.

A few well-known instances of such may be quoted.

Thirty years ago, for instance, Mademoiselle Bois de Chêne, who was born at Geneva in 1834, was exhibited in London, being then eighteen years of age. She had a profuse head of hair, a strong black beard and large whiskers, with a light growth of hair on the arms. Her beard was, however, excelled by that possessed by a woman who was taken prisoner by the Russians at the battle of Pultowa on July 8, 1709, when Charles XII. of Sweden was defeated by Peter the Great. The woman was kept prisoner for several years, and eventually presented to the Czar, when her beard measured no less than a yard and a half in length.

Even some of the great women of the world in modern times have not been without this sign of 'ape-like ancestry,' for the Great Margaret, Governess of the Netherlands, had a very long stiff beard.

Perhaps Krao, if she had been left in her native home in Laos, might one day have been queen of a kingdom of human monkeys!

Bearded women, however, are evidences of that tendency, so often noted in animal breeding, to 'throw back' to the original stock, by which the progeny of 'pure-bred' animals resemble in some marked particular

a very old and long forgotten 'strain' of the race. An example may be seen in the occasional patches of hair called 'moles,' with which some people are sometimes so much disfigured. Such persons may comfort themselves with the reflection that they are only reverting in a slight degree to their original species. Bearded women are in this way only more striking indications of man's descent from a hairy animal, of which Krao is an undeniable proof.

The fact that three generations of the same race, found in the same district as that in which Krao and her parents (two generations again) were captured, are now living together, in the family at Ava, above described, and that four generations have been known to live there, precludes the possibility of doubt that they are all members of a race to whom the remarkable hairy growth is peculiar. To regard any of them as 'sports,' or 'monstrosities,' or *lusus nature*, is impossible. To regard them as specimens of 'reversion' or 'throwing back' to a remote ancestry, though more in accordance with argument and analogy, is equally impossible. The only possible explanation is that they are normal representatives of humanity, in a state of transition from the lower state, as represented in the various species of monkeys, to the higher state, in which we ourselves exist.

All the above evidence shows that 'Krao' far transcends in scientific importance and general interest any creature that has yet been seen in Europe. A slight acquaintance with the principal points in the Darwinian theory will prove this, and those who are still sceptical in the matter can hardly fail to be convinced by a single interview with 'Krao.'

Here it may not be amiss to point out that the Darwinian theory of evolution or development is not of such recent origin as is generally supposed. 'Krao' fills a gap which many philosophers before Darwin had seen and endeavoured to account for. She meets, and more than meets, all the requirements of a theory which has slowly grown into favour—'developed' almost as gradually as man himself.

As long ago as 1827 Ernest von Baer, of Königsberg, declared that all mammals are descended from a common parent—a minute egg not a hundredth part of an inch in diameter. Even before this Lamarck in his 'Philosophie Zoologique,' published in 1809, and Buffon, held and taught the doctrine that all animals are developed from minute living particles called 'monads.' And earlier still, in 1759, Wolff's theory of epigenesis was thrown down to startle a world unwilling to believe anything that clashed with preconceived notions, and yet always ready to see anything new.

Thus the theory has been of slow growth and of still slower recognition. Of late, however, it has grown in favour. Hæckel and Wallace have helped forward the views of their predecessors, of whom Darwin was the chief, and which, though received perhaps with the greatest storm of ridicule and

abuse when promulgated by Darwin, because he, of all others, proved his case the best, have been gradually accepted, not only by all the leading scientific men, but by so large a portion of the general public that popular disbelief is rapidly developing into popular faith in the truth of the doctrines with which the name of Darwin is generally and prominently associated.

To complete the story, to put the keystone to the arch which so many builders have laboured to construct,

'KRAO,'

**THE LIVING MISSING LINK,
DAUGHTER OF A TRIBE OF HAIRY
MEN AND WOMEN,**

**NOW MAKES HER APPEARANCE BEFORE THE
CIVILISED WORLD.**



LONDON: PRINTED BY
SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., NEW-STREET SQUARE
AND PARLIAMENT STREET

'By invitation from Mr. Farini, that famous and indefatigable collector of curiosities from all parts of the world, a large party of ladies and gentlemen assembled at the Aquarium for a private view of "the Missing Link." "Krao," as the creature is called, is a young girl whose skin is covered with long dark hair, and whose face presents an aspect singularly akin to that of the gorilla, but with a humanised expression.'—EVENING NEWS, *January 1, 1883.*

'Krao, the "missing link," belongs to the so-called hairy family or species. She is, in fact, half human, half monkey. From the crown of her head to the soles of her feet she is covered with a long fur-like hair, jet-black on the upper and brown on the lower portion of the body; nose level with the face; and in her full, rounded, pouch-like cheeks she retains food as does a monkey. In addition, she has a stump of a tail, and all her limbs are remarkably flexible; she is by no means ill-looking, and is very intelligent.'—THE BROAD ARROW, *January 6, 1883.*

'Mr. Farini has certainly a very curious natural specimen. Though Krao is called a human monkey, no one need fear that she is in any way offensive to the sight. She is certainly all covered with black, silky hair, has largely-developed cheeks, and rudiments of a tail; but on the other hand she has really very lovely eyes, and a pleasing smile.'—LONDON FIGARO, *January 6, 1883.*

'THE LISSING MINK.

(OUR DANGEROUS JUMBOIST'S LATEST CONVULSION.)

[Mr. G. A. Farini is now exhibiting the "Missing Link" at the Aquarium.]

'With ecstasy my best I cheet,
 And fap my sningers, too,
 For news has come that's swassing peet,
 If it be trictly strue.
 'Tis said Farini, "bart" and smold,
 Of Barnums pite the quink,
 Has brought within his fowman's shold
 That lovely "Lissing Mink."
 The Giantess who's "stowing grill"
 Will scarce be treld a heat,
 And "Midgets," who their fall would hill,
 Will take a sackward beat.
 The narvel mew alone will draw,
 Or so the thrafty cink,
 And 'twill become the sprest of "bees"
 To see the "Lissing Mink."
 All prudence to the tinds I woss,
 I will be froilly whee,
 And keepers must not crare to doss
 My wish with kain or chey.
 Away! away! my "hob" is bere,
 And ere there's wime to tink,
 I shall with jazy croy appear
 Before the "Lissing Mink."'

FUNNY FOLKS, *January 13, 1883.*

[Continued on next page.]

'There is certainly nothing repulsive about the exhibition. Krao has large lustrous eyes, a double row of teeth, and well-developed pouches in the cheek for storage of spare food, double-jointed knuckles, with a silky and universal covering of hair—a veritable fur coat—and evidence of soft, silky manners.'—*LAND AND WATER, January 6, 1883.*

'There stood the great Farini; he had done with an agent, and a tourist ticket, in a few months more than poor Darwiv had achieved "with the aid of all the animal world" in a lifetime.

'The great and good Farini, who always comes when he is wanted, bringing light and comfort to the world. The poet says truly:—

"When holiday time's appearing,
And we to the Aquarium go,
Then up pops Farini, up pops Farini,
Up pops Farini with a Show."

SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS, January 6, 1883.

'This human monkey is no *lusus naturæ* such as bearded women, spotted dogs, or giantesses. She is a regular production in the regular order of Nature; the descendant of a hairy father and mother, belonging to a tribe of hairy people. The fur on her body is about two inches long, on her forehead somewhat longer. Her eyes are large, black and very brilliant.'—*BELL'S LIFE, January 6, 1883.*

'I have seen Krao, Mr. Farini's latest, and, whilst scarcely prepared to say that it comes up to my preconceived idea of what the "missing link" should be, cannot but express my conviction that the fact of the existence of a hairy race has been proved beyond a doubt.'—*WORLD, January 3, 1883.*

'Some portions of her anatomy very much resemble the monkey. Excepting the growth of hair on her face, there is nothing repulsive in her appearance.'

NEWS OF THE WORLD, December 31, 1882.

'The expression of the features is pleasant, and reminds one of "Pongo." The hairy covering is most prominent and dense on the head and face and the upper part of the body. The joints of the fingers and toes can be bent backwards as well as forwards.'

PEOPLE, December 31, 1882.

'Through the courtesy of Mr. Farini I have had a private interview with this curious little waif. The head and low forehead are completely covered, down to the bushy eyebrows, with a deep black, lank, lustreless hair. The whole body is also overgrown with a dense coating of soft, black hair about an inch and a half long. The nose is extremely flat, with excessively broad nostrils merging in the full-pouched cheeks, into which she has the habit of stuffing her food monkey fashion.'—*NATURE, January 12, 1883.*