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# THE KINGDOM OF THE YELLOW ROBE



"the shrine in the middle of the waters"—paknam. Page 30.

# THE KINGDOM OF THE YELLOW ROBE

## BEING SKETCHES OF THE DOMESTIC AND RELIGIOUS RITES AND CEREMONIES OF THE SIAMESE

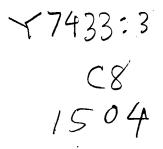
ву

#### ERNEST YOUNG

Late of the Education Department, Siam.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY E. A. NORBURY, R.C.A. (Late Director of the Royal School of Art, Bangkok, Siam) And from Photographs by the Author.

> WESTMINSTER ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & Co 1898



#### PREFACE

THE following pages are intended to present to the reader an account of the domestic and religious rites and ceremonies of the Siamese. They are the outcome of several years' residence in the Capital of Siam. In order to verify some of my own observations or to amplify some points with regard to which my own knowledge was rather scanty. I have consulted most of the books which in recent years have been published concerning the country of Siam. I am particularly indebted to the works of two writers whose knowledge was both wide and deep; viz., H. Alabaster, whose "Wheel of the Law" deals with Siamese Buddhism; and Captain Gerini. whose various monographs on domestic or religious customs are full of valuable and reliable information concerning their misty origin and meaning. I must also acknowledge my indebtedness to "The Siam Repository" (a weekly paper long since extinct, but whose pages are a treasure-house of information to the enquirer), and to my friend Mr. R. L. Morant for much helpful criticism and advice.

The illustration "Planting out young Rice" is from a sketch in the possession of Mrs. Smith, of Tarrawatta, Beckenham, who has kindly lent it for the purpose of illustrating this book.

The following five illustrations are also from sketches, kindly lent by E. Lloyd Williams, Esq., of James St., Buckingham Gate.

"Offering Rice to the Priests."

"Making Curry."

"Ploughing a Rice-field."

"Collecting ripe Grain."

"Rice Boats coming down the Menam."

E. Y.

Chingford, 1898.

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