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	PAGE
Slander.....	262
Theft.....	262
Gambling.....	264
Forcible entry of dwellings.....	264
Procedure.....	264
Actual cases.....	268
III. Beliefs: in Nabaloi and English.....	272
The soul and spirits.....	272
Omens.....	278
IV. Ceremonies.....	280
Spirits and deities.....	280
Priesthood.....	284
Purpose.....	284
Divination.....	285
Place.....	286
Sacrifice.....	286
Spoken ritual.....	286
Dancing and songs.....	287
Omens.....	288
Taboo.....	288
Material effects.....	288
Classification of ceremonies.....	289
Bindayan.....	289
Pachit.....	294
Chawak.....	299
Bayjok.....	299
Batbat.....	300
Saad.....	303
Kapl.....	303
Kind.....	305
Amposit.....	306
Pasung ni mansakit.....	307
Timungau.....	308
Amdag.....	308
Tuwal.....	310
Tingiting.....	310
Palis.....	311
Sngausau.....	312
Buang.....	313
Nansutag.....	314
Palis chi kabunian.....	314
Dosa.....	315
Sigop.....	316
Kolaa.....	317
Basil.....	317
Sabosuh.....	318
Diu chuntog.....	319
Diu kasib.....	320
Gangau.....	322
Tamo.....	322
Puwang.....	325

	PAGE
Padad.....	326
Sibisib.....	326
Abasang.....	328
Siling.....	329
Okat.....	331
Tabwak.....	331
Kosday.....	332
Tawal ni payu.....	333
Pungau.....	334
Bakak.....	335
Salchi.....	335
Explanation of plates.....	336

INTRODUCTION

The following data on the Nabaloi Igorot of the sub-province of Benguet, in Luzon, are the result of more than twelve years of residence among these people. During the greater portion of this time the author lived among the Nabaloi, while a considerable part of his work has been with the neighboring Kankanay. At first the time spared from official duties was used to acquire a knowledge of the dialects, after which the customs and beliefs of the people were studied.

The first section, on general culture, is intended merely as an introduction, to give the general setting.

The second section, on law, consists wholly of statements made by the Nabaloi themselves, and is given in full in their language as well as in English. The translation has been kept as literal as possible, style being sacrificed in an endeavor to preserve the Nabaloi flavor as thoroughly as may be.

It was especially difficult to obtain the material for the fourth section which treats of ritual. Since the formulas and prayers are whispered during the ceremonies, they can not be understood, and the priests regard it as sacrilegious to relate them at other times. However, they were finally induced to do so if rice-wine and chickens were furnished for ceremonies to prevent the spirits from harming them. So far as possible the formula and prayer were obtained for each ceremony.

The author hopes to follow the present paper with a collection of folk tales.