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Chinese Mohammedans.

A traveler in the upper Tangtse provinces of China found in the town of Hingantu many Chinese Mohammedans who keep up communication with their fellow religionists of Arabia. A missionary who has lived among them for years declares that they are very quarrelsome, much given to boasting of their Turkestan origin, and in spite of the prophet's injunctions, drink a great deal of wine. This is usually the case with Chinese Mohammedans. In Hingantu, and more especially in Kansu, a few of their spiritual teachers keep up their knowledge of Arabic and are occasionally visited by Arab or central Asian mollahs, who follow the old Arab trade route by way of Hami, by which the Arabs originally traded and propagated their faith. These mollahs visit every country in the east where the followers of the prophet are to be found and keep up the ties of the faithful with Islam. As they often stir up dissension and foment disturbances against the Chinese authorities, the latter regard them with suspicion.

How Swallows Drink.

Of course we know that swallows drink as they skim over the surface of water. We have seen how here and there the water ripples on a pond when swallows are gracefully skimming to and fro. One day I sat down beside a small pond where every evening many barn swallows came to bathe and drink on the surface of the glassy water. With sketch book and pencil in hand I closely watched the birds, and you may imagine my delight to see just how they managed to touch and dip up the water as they came within a few steps of me. You see, the swallow takes up water in its lower bill just as you would dip up a little water in a spoon or in the hollow of your hand while you glided over the surface in a boat. Only the under half of the open bill touches the water. If the upper half were also to touch, the water would be forced out on either side instead of being scooped up into the bill. —St. Nicholas.

A Lake That Stores Heat.

There is a lake that stores the sun's heat at Medvee, in northeastern Transylvania. Thick beds of rock salt underlie the district, and a similar formation appears upon the surface in mounds, some of them over 100 feet in height. Among these the lake rests at fully 1,500 feet above sea level. Upon the surface its water is almost sweet, four inches below there is a twentieth of salt, at two feet there is one-fifth, and at five feet the water is practically saturated with salt. In September, after a summer's sunshine, the thermometer showed the lake's waters to be 150 degrees four feet down. Even by April, after a whole season of wintry weather, it had only been reduced to 80 degrees. Experiments have proved that this is due to absorption and retention of the sun's heat by the salt saturated solution.

Grace Knives.

There is a curious class of knives of the sixteenth century the blades of which have engraved on one side the musical notes to the benediction of the table, or grace before meat, and on the other the grace after meat. These knives usually went in sets of four, representing a four part harmony of bass, tenor, alto and treble. They were kept in an upright case of stamped leather and were placed before the singers according to the adaptation of each one to his particular part. As may be supposed, the inscription was usually in Latin. The following specimen is taken from actual knives of the period: "Pro tuis beneficiis Deus, gratias agimus tibi" (For thy good gifts, O God, we thank thee).

Mares and Fillies.

A song of bygone generation reproached the French with calling their daughters "mares" and all their daughters "fillies," and it is easy to imagine that "filly" is connected with "filia." As a matter of fact, the word "filly" is of Scandinavian origin and is really a diminutive of "foal." Shakespeare makes Puck disguise himself in "like-ness of a filly foal." "Mare" is the Anglo-Saxon "mere," feminine of "meath," a horse, a trace of which remains in "marshal," which properly signifies master of the horse.

The Most Accurate Frontier.

As an instance of the jealousy existing in the relations between Norway and Sweden it may be noted that the boundary line between the two countries is the most minutely exact in Europe. In every parish touched by the line there is deposited an elaborate plan which is renewed every ten years, the whole of the work of surveying, etc., being carefully repeated each time.—Pearson's Magazine.

Qualities and the Sexes.

One of the charms of an intimacy between two persons of different sexes is that the man loves the woman for qualities he does not envy, and the woman appreciates the man for qualities she does not pretend to possess.—Nineteenth Century.

Outrageous.

Miss Listener—Then you didn't join that philanthropic organization? Mrs. Chatterbox—No; when I intimated to the ladies that I wanted to do something for charity one of them suggested that I might begin by holding my tongue.

Working Up.

Elise—Your Uncle Harry seems awful young to be a doctor. Willie—Yes, he ain't a real grown up doctor yet. I expect he's only "tender" to children yet, so to get some practice.

Excuses don't pay back borrowed.

—Louisville Herald.

The First French Navy.

Away back in the eighth century Charlemagne had organized a sort of coast guard by enrolling all the sea-board population who lived within one and a half miles of the shore, but with the dismemberment of the vast Carolingian empire all dreams of naval greatness were dissipated. Long afterward Charles V. built some military fleets on the Atlantic, and Louis XI's galleys chased the Barbary pirates who infested the shores of the Mediterranean, but it was Francis I. apparently who first conceived the idea of a war fleet, purchased and equipped from the royal treasury. He converted the small fishing village of Havre into a fortified port, which speedily attracted commerce to the mouth of the Seine, and he projected a scheme which he did not live to realize for the construction of an oceanic navy under canvas. "Fleets were massed in the Mediterranean," writes Mr. Norman in his "Corsairs of France," "and for the first time in history a French squadron, passing through the strait of Gibraltar, defeated an English fleet off Brest, and then, moving round to the eastward, drove off the blockading squadrons of Henry VIII, from Boulogne."

An Eloquent Critic.

Theodore Thomas, in conducting an orchestra, seemed impassive, imperturbable. A writer in the Outlook commenting upon this says that he was apparently without passion or feeling, yet the appearance was not reality, and at one of Mr. Thomas' rehearsals it was fully contradicted. At a certain point in the symphony the orchestra was playing in perfect time and tune, but with a certain mechanical effect which no one had noticed until Mr. Thomas suddenly rapped the music stand before him. The orchestra stopped. Then with his hand he imitated the action of an organ grinder.

With only a word to indicate the bar at which the orchestra was to take up the music, he struck the rack before him for attention, and with a movement of his baton gave the signal. The orchestra repeated the passage he had criticized by dumb show, and this time it played with spirit and fire.

A Silent Land.

In the rainless interior of Australia there is a silence of the grave. This deathlike silence has a peculiarly depressing effect. If two men are camped and one of them goes to a distant township to get provisions while the other remains behind to look after the camp, the man who is to remain says to his mate in forcible gold fields language, "Now, Bill, don't you be long away. You know what kind of a place this is to live in by yourself." If his mate is away for two or three days, the silence gets upon the man's nerves, and in the end he shouts in order to make a noise, and then he is afraid of the sound of his own voice.

Cinnamon.

Ceylon provides us with the bulk of our cinnamon, which is the aromatic bark of certain trees common to that island. The trees are never allowed to grow higher than ten feet. During the season of harvesting, of which there are two a year, the branches of three to five years' growth are cut down and the top surface of the bark scraped away. Then the bark is ripped up longitudinally into slices, which when exposed to the sun to dry curl up into quills. In the course of drying the oil, upon which the aroma and flavor depend, is diffused throughout the bark.

Origin of Graft.

Municipal corruption of various kinds is generally indicated by the word "graft." The origin of this term is obscure, but it is believed to have arisen from dishonesty in lowlier spheres. Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanisms defines "grafting" as pocket picking, and Hotten's Slang Dictionary suggests that the slang use of "graft" might be a corruption of "craft" or a generalization from the special work of gardening.

Moisture and Temperature.

A cubic foot of air at the temperature of zero (Fahrenheit) can contain only 5 of a grain of water vapor; at 32 degrees it can hold 2.13 grains; at 65 it can contain 6.8 grains, and at 98 it can hold 18.90 grains of moisture in suspension. These figures go to show that summer air can hold at least nine times the quantity of dampness that air can when reduced to the temperature of freezing.

An Error in English.

Even the greatest authors now and then make a little slip in their English. Thus Sir Walter Scott in his "Legend of Montrose" has this sentence: "But 'e Montrose could almost see what happened Alann McAulay had rushed past him." The "almost" should come before "ere" in order to express the author's meaning.—St. Nicholas.

Lucky Man.

He (a former suitor) so you are married after all. You told me once that you never intended to belong to any man. She—Well, that remark still holds good. "But your husband?" "Oh, he belongs to me."

Spanish Proverbs.

A Spanish proverb says that "he who makes himself a sugar flies will eat up," but another observes, "He who makes himself all vinegar will never catch any flies."

There would be more excitement in the world if fish and halibut were as big as the stories told about them.—Washington Post.

AUSTRALIAN'S VIEWS

HEAPS OF WEALTH BUT LITTLE HAPPINESS AMONG US.

Accompanied in Her Travels by Her Three Year Old Daughter.—Says American Men are Admirable Husbands.

"Heaps of wealth and heaps of progress, but to judge by the faces in the streets, very little happiness," is one of the impressions which Mrs. Helen Jerome, a clever newspaper woman from Australia, received of Americans.

Mrs. Jerome recently arrived here on a tour of the world. She has been commissioned by the Melbourne Age to study the conditions of women and labor in the United States, England, Germany and Russia.

Of American women she speaks with great enthusiasm, declaring them to be the best natured, most cultured and by far the best dressed women she ever met.

"They are spontaneous, natural and whole hearted, with brains like electric sparks, and I do not wonder that your men are proud of them and that foreigners seek them out," she said to-day.

"I find that it is impossible to bring up a subject upon which they are not quite at home. It is amazing."

What puzzles us in Australia, though, about the position of your women is their lack of the franchise, which the women in Australia already enjoy. We expect ere many moons to have women seated in Parliament."

American men disappoint Mrs. Jerome in one respect.

"They are polite, affable, deferential when they meet you," she said to-day, "but they plainly impress you with the feeling that it is quite immaterial to them whether they ever lay eyes on you again. One can see at a glance that they must make admirable husbands, for any five minute conversation with an American married man reveals the fact that there is only one woman on earth—his wife."

"I wonder, though, that they ever took time to propose, they are so evidently absorbed in a rush for the almighty dollar."

Although requested especially to study the color problem, Mrs. Jerome "doesn't find any color problem to study." The chief danger to be feared from the colored people, thinks Mrs. Jerome, is from the fact that they have the right to vote without the ability to do so intelligently.

Pongee is Stylish.

The handsome silks, including pongee, in all its variations, are in high favor as the season advances, and the smoother surface pongees are regaining the prestige they lost last year. One model is in natural color pongee and the full skirt is in small tucks over the hips. The bot-

tom is trimmed with a band of almond green velvet ribbon, and lined with white. On the back it is mounted in front a band of all over lace, a circular collar of two deep ruffles of lace is bound to surround a band of white moon marching that used on skirt and which



also edges the collar. A jacket effect is given by plaited pieces of the material drawn from each side to bust line over a vest of pongee and held in place by a bow of velvet ribbon. An odd but artistic sleeve is made with a puff pongee from shoulder to elbow and finished there with two flounces of lace and a strap band of material edged with lace.

TO STUDY HEREDITY.

Decline of English Birth Rate to Be Investigated.

Eugenics is the name of a new science which Dr. Galton expounded to the Sociological society recently, and which the society intends to systematize. Its first aim is the study of heredity, in order to arrive at laws which govern it. To determine how far the decline of the birth rate is indicative of national deterioration and what conditions produce "thriving" families is also part of the work of the new science.

Dr. Galton, in explaining this science, which he may be said to have invented, said: "The passion of love seems to be so overpowering that it may be thought folly to try to direct its course. But plain facts do not confirm this view. Social influences have immense power. If suitable marriages, from the eugenic point of view, were banned socially, few would be made."

"I see no impossibility," he continued, "in eugenics becoming a religious

dom is founded with the basis of almost green velvet ribbon, and lined with white. On the back it is mounted in front a band of all over lace, a circular collar of two deep ruffles of lace is bound to surround a band of white moon marching that used on skirt and which

most first be worked out sedulously in the study."

That work is in effect what the new Sociological society proposes to undertake.

George Bernard Shaw sent a contribution to the discussion, which showed that his views on the marriage question are decidedly more than an age before his time. "We have never deliberately called a human being into existence," he said, "but we have wiped out millions. We kill a Tibetan regardless of expense and in defiance of our religion to clear the way to Lhasa for the Englishman, but we take no really scientific steps to secure that the Englishman, when he gets there, will be able to live up to our assumption of his superiority."

"In spite of all the romances, men and women are amazingly indiscriminate in their attachments; they select their wives and husbands far less carefully than they select their cashiers and cooks. I am afraid we must make up our minds either to face a considerable shock to public opinion in this matter, or let eugenics alone."

Benjamin Kidd asked the society whether it wished to produce the perfect individual or a good social unit, and quoted the bees as a sample of good society, whose members were not perfect individually.

H. G. Wells put forward rather a startling declaration. "Many eminent criminals appear to me to be persons superior in many respects, in intelligence, initiative and originality, to the average judge. I will confess I have never known either." This was apropos of Dr. Galton's proposal that criminals should not be allowed to perpetuate their race. He summed up his views of sociology in the doctrine that it is in the sterilization of failures that the possibility of an improvement of the human stock lies.—London Express.

Regards Tipping as Valid.

Washington.—Tipping has been recognized as a valid custom in an order approved by the new Secretary of the Navy. The order establishes a standard of allowances for the expenses of those officers of the navy traveling on official business who are not entitled to mileage.

Tips on trains up to 50 cents a day, will be allowed, and the same at hotels. Hotel bills up to \$5 and single meals at \$1.50 are other allowances sanctioned for officers traveling in the United States.

Officers traveling outside of the United States can give tips at hotels up to \$1 per day, pay \$1 per day for steamer chairs, \$5 a day for hotel bills, and \$1.50 for single meals.

The order has been held back for some time, owing to the objection that it will lead all officers to make their expense accounts come up to the maximum the Government will allow.

Boy of Thirteen a Barber.

Detroit.—A boy wonder as a barber is Howard H. Fritsch, 13 years old, of No. 148 Michigan avenue. He is the

brother of his father, who runs the shop and the admiration of a host of customers. Howard has had a chair in his father's shop for four weeks and has a steady line of customers who wait for him. He is regarded as a skillful shaver and a fast workman. He had for some time evinced a desire to become a barber, spending much time with his father in the shop. After trying him for five days shaving a felt hat which requires a light hand Howard was rewarded with a chair in the shop. The first day he shaved eighteen men all of whom were astonished at the boy's ability. The boy is so short that his father has built a seven inch platform around his chair.

Aid for Cotton Planters.

Washington. Consul General Pitcairn at Hamburg, Germany, writes to the Department of Commerce and Labor on the cotton culture subject in the Dutch colonies as follows:

"In the Netherlands a committee has been formed for the promotion of the culture of cotton in the Dutch colonies. The Dutch Government is reported to have promised its support and assistance. A report recently published by the committee had annexed to it as exhibits copies of letters from Surinam containing information on the result of culture by way of experiment of sea island and upland cotton. Samples accompanying such letters furnished proof of the possibility of successful culture."

Antiquity of Civilization.

The longer men continue to ask how old civilization is the farther the date of its beginning recedes.

Prof. Flinders Petrie has just been expounding before the ancient colleges of England his researches in Egypt. He found pottery used in the first dynasty, 4700 years before Christ, found an ivory statue of Cneops, the builder of the great pyramid, over 4000 years old.

Yet this is only a single span, for thousands of years must have passed between the primitive dwellers in the Nile valley and the man who carved ivory statues, built temples and executed elegant glass work. The age of civilization is still a conundrum. The old lady does not know her age.

Sunday Day of Most Crime.

An Austrian statistician publishes the results of curious examinations he has made as to the frequency of crime on the several days of the week. His investigations extended over several years and several provinces of the Austrian empire. Of the 723 cases examined, these are the results: Sunday, 254; Monday, 125; Tuesday, 60; Wednesday, 62; Thursday, 62; Friday, 48; Saturday, 103. On Sundays when public houses are most frequented and most alcohol is consumed, most crime occurs. On Monday people are still under the influence of their Sunday potations, and the number recedes until Saturday, which is payday. Saturday does not reach the figures of Sunday, because the public houses are frequented only in the evening.—London Tatler.