

A GRUMBLING EMPIRE

Last Mohammedan Kingdom in North Africa.

SLAVERY UNBRIDLED

Morocco Almost Forbidden to a Christian—Its Uninviting Shores Have Been Gazed At by Thousands of Americans Sailing Into the Mediterranean.

The last Mohammedan empire of North Africa—Al Moghreb Al-Akbar—the beloved "Sunset Land" of the Moors, is tottering to its fall, and that into the expectant arms of France, which has already "eaten up" the neighboring empires of Algeria and Tunisia. Few Americans "doing" the European tour, and sailing through the Straits of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean, realize as they look across to the African coast at Ceuta that the very land they are looking at—the Riff coast—is a terra incognita, unknown and little trodden of Christian foot. Still more amazing is it to reflect that within three and a half hours' sail of the fortress of Gibraltar, an empire in which the world has stood still for thousands of years; an empire in which the shriek of a locomotive has never been heard; where even roads in the common acceptance of the term are unknown; where brigandage is rampant under the very eyes of the representatives of the Powers of Europe, and where the only means of transport and communication are the camels, horses, mules and asses the like of which did duty in the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

A turbulent empire, indeed, with the merest figurehead for its sovereign, says a writer in the New York Post.

Slavery is still rampant throughout the empire, the boys and girls being brought round by their owners, led by the ear from door to door. Slave caravans, organized by Arab raiders, come up periodically from central Africa, the slaves being used en route for current coin by expenses. The price of a boy of twelve or thirteen ranges from thirty to seventy dollars Moorish, while a girl's value may run all the way up to three or four hundred dollars, according to her beauty. The Moors are, however, extremely averse to discussing the slave trade with Christians, well knowing the detestation of the "Nazarene" for this odious traffic. It would be extremely unwise for an American or European to stop in the slave markets of Fez or Marrakech and watch the auctioneer and his jostling bidders, these last examining the "specimens" in precisely the same manner that a Kentucky horse buyer would investigate a possible purchase.

That the absorption of Morocco by France is going to take a long time is certain; and then there is Tangier, which commands the Straits of Gibraltar and might become a menace to the great British fortress.

Amazing as it may seem, the highest officers are not above accepting the most paltry bribes of a dollar or two; and the only attempt at policing is the ghastly array of human heads stuck on spikes above the gateways of the walled cities. I have seen baskets of these heads come into the city to be saluted for exhibition. No Christian can travel many miles from a city without an armed escort, and even then he is frequently turned back by some arbitrary local chieftain. Travel is altogether impossible in the country at the back of Rabat, and in the Rahama tribe generally; and at this moment even the well trodden mule-track between Tangier and Tetuan is closed. Even in more quiet times the harmless Christian traveler is insulted, spit at, and even stoned by Arabs and their slaves, who may be minding grazing camels in the fields or argan forests.

Agriculturally the country is enormously rich, but one only has to bear in mind the bent stick used as a plough and the oxen treading out the grain—Biblical sights which one may see at every turn in Al-Moghreb. It is notorious that Morocco is rich in iron, coal, silver, lead, and particularly copper in the Atlas Mountains. Yet so great is the fear and terror of the Government lest Christians should get a hold on the country that even the brass and copper trays, the iron for horseshoes and other primitive materials are imported in sheets from industrial centers like the English Birmingham and the American Pittsburgh.

Missionary work has been attempted chiefly by American societies without even the beginnings of success. In fact, missionaries have been hated with bitter hatred ever since the Rev. Mr. Cooper was shot dead by a fanatic in one of the sokos of Fez. Such pressure was brought to bear on the Sultan over this event that he was compelled to drag the murderer out of the refuge shrine or Saint House of Moulat Idri, to the unutterable scandal of the faithful. Later on, so deep-seated was the hatred and growing disaffection of the people, that the weak and vacillating young Emperor caused an immense holocaust of forty heifers to be offered at the door of the shrine as atonement for the desecration.

JAPAN'S ADVANCE TO POWER

Due to Her Close Imitation of Germany's Methods.

Japan's extraordinary success of the last decade is the result of a faithful imitation of another wonderfully successful nation.

Germany is Japan's model. Thirty-five years ago, when the Mikado's land began to feel the first thrill of the new life, the counsellors of the ruler sought a model which could be followed in the effort for a new and progressive national existence.

Germany, at that time in full flush of the wonderful triumph over the French, a victory that gave the Fatherland an impetus that has carried it forward in leaps and bounds, attracted Nippon.

The German Empire had just been newly formed out of a heterogeneous collection of states that hitherto had had little in common, and between whom only discord had reigned. Yet so perfect was the system evolved by the genius of Emperor William, Count Von Moltke and Bismarck, that the new nation had been able to overwhelm the French, the nation that produced Napoleon, greatest soldier of the country, and which only a few years before the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war had emerged a victor in the struggle for the freedom of Italy.

Here was the country whose career Japan wished to emulate. The imitative Orientals made a study of the Fatherland, its government, its institutions, its military and governmental systems.

And so faithful has been the imitation that in a few years Japan has emerged from almost barbarity into one of the world's first half dozen powers.

The story of how Japan elected to follow in the footsteps of Germany was told recently by General Baron Nishi, inspector general of military



MARQUIS ITO.

instruction in the Japanese army, who has spent many years in Germany studying the military system of the War Lord's domain.

He drew many parallels to prove his case.

Just as Germany had a war of preparation to get ready for the main struggle that was to make or break the nation, so had Japan.

Germany, or that part of it then known as Prussia, first tested the efficiency of its military system against Austria in 1866, and scored a speedy victory. In this conflict the best military minds of the nation were engaged in a close study of the art of warfare. The strength and weakness of the army was inspected with minutest care. This war meant nothing but preparation for the greater conflict soon to come. And when Germany met France, she was ready for that war because the equipment used against Austria four years before had been developed and prepared, improved and increased.

So with Japan. The quarrel with China afforded a convenient pretext for a struggle that would give data, would enable Oyama and other foremost military authorities to see just how formidable was the military and naval engine they had been building up.

The triumph was quick and complete. What faults were discovered were remedied in time for the war with Russia, and in that struggle it is well known that the giant of the north was caught napping, and lost to the foe that had been alert.

Germany was ready. France was not. So anxious was Bismarck for war in 1870 that the famous forged telegram of Ems was made to afford a pretext for an instant declaration.

Taking a lesson from this subtlety, the Japs similarly precipitated the struggle with Russia, by attacking the Russian ships at Port Arthur and Chemulpo before war had been formally declared.

Japan has its Bismarck, too, in the person of a great leader, the Marquis Ito.

Bismarck is given the credit of creating modern Germany. He deserves it. He was both the soldier and the constructive statesman. When he was recalled from St. Petersburg in 1882 to deal with the crisis, he was appointed Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His remarkable diplomacy, which successively drew Austria and France into war, made them both look to be in the wrong, earned Germany the sympathy of the nations, resulted in great victories and finally in the unity of the German Empire all represented his master system.

LUXURIOUS OCEAN LINER

Three Thousand Passengers.

In her exterior, the Adriatic, ocean queen of the White Star line, much resembles her sister ship the Baltic, although she is fifteen feet longer, 1,124 tons heavier, 1,000 horse power stronger and from half to a whole knot faster, says the New York World.

The Adriatic will also burn something more than the 235 tons of coal a day which the Baltic consumes. This will be comparatively a bagatelle considered with the 750 tons a day eaten up in the furnaces of the German grayhounds.

The Adriatic, which is the last and greatest ship of the White Star line, is not intended to be a grayhound, but an economical, seven day ship, providing all the comforts, luxuries, necessities, safety, sanitary requirements and fads of the present day which experience and the success of other steamships can suggest.

The Adriatic, which was built at Belfast, Ireland, is of nearly 35,000 tons gross, having a displacement of more than 40,000 tons. She is 721 feet 9 inches over all, 75 feet 6 inches beam and about 30 feet deep. It cost only \$3,750,000 to build the Adriatic in Ireland, but if she had been built in America she would have cost \$5,000,000. She is expected to last twenty-five years. The Britons couldn't build her without American steel for more than 1,000,000 pounds of boiler plate were required from the Homestead plant of the Carnegie Steel company for the Adriatic's battery of ten boilers, each fifteen feet eight inches in diameter, twenty feet long and carrying 110 pounds of steam to the square inch.

On the Adriatic will be afforded the traveler a choice between the American and the European plans of having meals served. He may, as he prefers, dine a la carte or table d'hôte.

The Adriatic has nine decks, and her novelties include a gymnasium, an electric elevator connecting the upper deck, promenade deck and boat deck, a dining room on the upper deck, lowest of the four passenger decks; no square cornered tables, but little round, restaurant style, family tables, studding her dainty room; an orchestra, Turkish and electric baths, luxurious lounges, submarine telephonic signals, radio telegraph outfit and the most artistic decoration yet seen in an English ship.

Some pains have been taken to give more head room between decks in order to provide apartments of exceptional size and style. The dining room, paneled after the time of Charles II., will seat 370 persons. The entire ship can accommodate 3,000 travelers. Many little details are the fruit of experience in vessels built before. A special arrangement of portholes, for example, furnishes fresh air without exposing the voyager to drafts. There are also single berth rooms as well as the most luxurious and commodious suits. While the White Star line does not encourage lavish decoration the Adriatic, as the result of study of German models and criticisms on the Oceanic, Baltic, Celtic and Cedric, which are decidedly plain and "barnlike," will show a much richer interior adornment than any ship ever put forth by her builders.

Her engines consist of two sets of the quadruple expansion type, arranged on the balanced principle to avoid vibration. An effort has been made to avoid all the defects in the Baltic, Celtic and Cedric which have caused trembling. The ship carries a crew of about 350. She is in command of Captain M. J. Smith, commander royal naval reserve, who formerly had the Baltic.

Answering a Telegram. Russian procrastination is proverbial. Yet, even in this Asiatic corner of Europe, writes the Warsaw correspondent of the Fall Mail Gazette, nineteen months is thought to be rather a long time to take to answer a telegram. The Ministry of the Interior evidently does not think so.

In October, 1906, some fifty inhabitants of Warsaw signed a telegram to Count Witte, then Minister of the Interior, protesting against the brutal way in which the Cossacks and Lancers charged a peaceful crowd on the so-called "Constitution Day." One year later brought an answer. The fifty were summoned to the Town Hall and told, with great pomp and ceremony, that their telegram could not be attended to at first, because they had forgotten to fix a revenue stamp on it, and secondly, because such communications should be addressed to the Emperor, and not to the Minister of the Interior.

Of course, those who were wounded on that memorable occasion are either killed or cured long ago, and those who signed the telegram had forgotten all about the incident.

British Telegraph Methods. Secrecy in the transmission of telegraph dispatches in China is to be ensured in the future by a provision preventing the decipherment of all messages in transit. In the case of ordinary messages of commerce this revealed, the penalty is to be 10 years in prison. Five years' imprisonment is provided for persons who know of the revelation of such messages and neglect to report the matter to the proper authorities.

FENCING AS A WIT SHARPENER

An Exercise in Which Judgment and Quickness Are Called For.

A new physical culture game for children has been thought out by a teacher whose specialty is instructing children during the summer.

As soon as children are out of school they dislike the thought of anything that sounds like lessons. Yet many of them need the development of regular physical exercise under a teacher, and some of them have to be treated for different conditions, such as badly developed lungs or anaemia sluggish circulation, etc.

The teacher who makes a specialty of summer instruction makes the children play at fencing, with wooden swords, and finds that his work arouses their interest and their instincts for sport. The first half of the lesson is devoted to the regular physical exercises. The second half is taken up with fencing, and weak children are much benefited by it, because it takes little physical strength and yet exercises all the limbs, develops the lungs and the torso. The children are fitted out with basket masks to protect their faces, and wicker handles to the wooden foils which come well over the hand. They wear sweaters, bloomers and regular fencing shoes with rubber soles. The children learn to parry and to attack according to the rules of the art, and they soon develop the grace of body and the quick and agile motions which are the attributes of a skilful fencer.

"I have had to teach a great many children who seemed mentally backward," said the teacher, "and I find that this play of fencing helps to quicken the mind and the eye as well as to develop the body. Dull children can be made to take an interest in fencing (perhaps because of the paraphernalia required) more easily than in ordinary physical culture. Then there is the seat given by having an opponent to fight with, instead of doing exercises more or less automatically, with only a teacher looking on. Of course, I vary the game a great deal from regular fencing with foils and I make the children fence with right and left hands. Most children can do this easily. But the game, which should not last longer than four or five minutes at a time, with a rest in between bouts, is one that appeals to the child's mind and it is an excellent physical and mental stimulus, particularly for the phlegmatic and rather dull child, as it is an exercise in which judgment and quickness of eye are all-important."

Peculiar Footbath. The desirability of prolonged footbaths is well recognized, as it also the inconvenience incident to the present methods of taking these baths in an open vessel of some description. These inconveniences include seclusions of the person, replenishing the bath and exposure of the toes to the air. To obviate these inconveniences an Ohio man has invented a specially designed slipper for the purpose of soaking the feet. This slipper can be worn from the feet, the natural warmth of the feet keeping the bath itself

warm. The slipper is made of rubber with a comparatively heavy sole, the body or upper being light and silastic. The sole and upper are considerably larger than the foot, so as to provide room for the bath. The ankle fits closely. Above the ankle are hand pieces, to assist in putting on or taking off the slipper. By placing a small quantity of the desired bath in the slipper the wearer can prolong the bath indefinitely without seclusion, replenishing or exposure to cold air. Any desired liquid bath, such as plain or salt water or any medical compound may be used.

A Certain Effect. A pretty way to arrange bedroom window curtains is this: The upper sash is hung with a dainty flowered muslin, and the lower with a shiny madras. Both are simple wash curtains and thus will be easily mended. The colored curtain is protected from the light by the shade, which is usually drawn to the middle of the window. For this reason the colored curtain will not be liable to fade.



FOOT IN BATH.

A Municipal Brewery. A municipal undertaking, factory has been put into operation in Vienna. The business of two large corporations, which have merged in this business, has been purchased by the city for \$100,000. This can already operate the plant and furnish lighting, heating and hot water by purchasing a large brewery.

SERVANTS WHO SMOKE

A New Problem That Confronts the English Householder.

"Parlor maid wanted in small family. A bettiner and nice-smother" was the somewhat startling advertisement which appeared recently in a London daily.

Nowadays it is quite necessary, writes a correspondent of the London Tribune, for a mistress to inquire whether a maid is addicted to the cigarette-erase, for the smoking habit has invaded the servant's hall and kitchen maids, cooks and upper house maids now openly adopt the cigarette consuming customs of their smart set sisters.

The writer saw a well turned out nurse the other day in Hyde Park wheeling an expensive looking maid cart containing an elaborately dressed baby. The nurse was coquetically smoking a cigarette and attracting considerable attention from the astonished passerby.

At several registry office inquiries show that the smoking habits of the domestic servant are a recognized fact. In some families it is quite customary for parlor maid, housemaid and cook to enjoy their cigarettes in company below stairs.

That the working girl should take to smoking in imitation of the lady is by no means surprising. So many women of the highest social class nowadays smoke in restaurants after meals, and at all hours in hotel lounges, that the filtering down of a taste for the weed to a more humble stratum of society was only to be expected.

"Like mistresses, like maids" applied to cigarettes as much as to clothes and hats, and the lady of the house who consumes her ten to fifteen cigarettes a day can hardly, with logic and consistency, take her housemaid to task for indulging in the inclination which is said to be the sincerest form of flattery. The fact that it is a forbidden pleasure makes it the more alluring.

The maidervant takes a sample from her mistress's silver cigarette case, tries, tastes, and finds it good. Her mistress declares that she smokes because she is tired, and needs a soothing restorative. The maid is tired, too, and thinks what is good sauce for upstairs will probably prove equally pleasant for consumption in the basement.

For this reason ladies in search of servants should make a point of inquiring whether the new housemaid or the nurse just engaged is a non-smoker.

VERY QUEEN EGGS

Ducks Hold Record for Laying the Oddest Ones.

The stories told by poultry-keepers in regard to the laying of eggs are in danger of becoming viewed by the public in the same suspicious light as the tall yarns of fishermen, says the Mojosine World.

It is announced that an egg laid by a hen belonging to a coast-guard officer at Bridgeport measured 7 1/2 inches by 5 1/2 inches, while another of similar size picked up in a farmyard at Penny Stratford was, on being opened, found to contain a perfectly formed second egg. The record monster chicken's egg is believed to be one of 8 inches by 7 inches, and weighing 5 ounces.

The most freakish eggs are attributed to ducks. The Wagon Park Museum, Sheffield, has a quack-egg which contains another smaller egg inside, and a still greater wonder is a twin egg, the two being joined together end to end.

In a museum at Paris a four-footed goose lays an egg which is invariably misshapen, and the shell of which is so brittle that it breaks if touched. All attempts to preserve these eggs have been futile.

An egg apparently in a state of perfect preservation is reported to have been discovered imbedded in the mortar of an ancient church near Paris. As the wall had been standing for fully 500 years, the egg must have been undisturbed for all that long period.

Police Officer's Badge Over His Head. Many persons are puzzled to know why policemen wear their badges on their coats instead of on a lap made for that purpose at a matter of fact, the badge or star as he calls it, of many a policeman is right next to his heart.

Some of the bluecoats who can't thank their stars for being alive. This little metal shield has deflected the bullet of burglar, highwayman and at times too, has stopped the knife thrust of would-be assassins. During the last twenty or thirty years there are many cases on record showing that the little badge has been a lifesaver. Even bullets fired at close range, as a rule cannot penetrate the shield. That's why a bluecoat always feels safer in keeping the star at a vital spot. When on duty some policemen wear their stars on their vests, but always directly over the heart. They are accustomed to the little protector that they feel uneasy without it—New York Sun.

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FARMERS AND THE

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