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Koffee Kalkali and his Country.

We have long been familiar with the sable republic of Liberia, its rapid progress, and constitutional government, existing in the midst of savage tribes; nor is Dahomey, with its fierce black king, quite unknown beyond the confines of his kingdom; but it was reserved to the present quarrel between England and the Ashantees to give European and American fame to that dark potentate, Koffee Kalkali. Hitherto, but vague rumor has given out that Ashantee was a bellicose and rather formidable, but irretrievably savage nation; what its boundaries and extent are, is even yet an enigma; it is only known that it lies between beighted Dahomey on one side and more than semi-civilized Liberia on the other, while south of it is the famous West-African Gold Coast. Just where Coomassie, the Ashantee capital, stands, is only matter for conjecture; but that Coomassie is much more than a mere straggling collection of rude huts, as most African capitals are, is rendered well nigh certain by a French traveler, who adventurously penetrated thither a few years ago. He describes Coomassie as a large and really good-looking city, with regular streets and squares, and dwellings which, though rude compared with Russell Square, or the Rue de Rivoli, wear the aspect of comfort, and even, occasionally, of luxury. The royal place of Koffee is a rather imposing edifice, with window and door frames lined with quite a thick lining of solid gold. Gold, indeed, is one of the most ordinary ornaments of the swarthy monarch and his courtiers. The axe and umbrella handles are often solid gold; and golden nuggets are the fashionable trinket worn around the necks of the Ashantee lords and ladies. The suspicion entertained by the English and the Dutch, both of whom have had settlements on the coast, that there are extensive gold mines in the interior, is seemingly confirmed by the tale of the rash sojourner in Coomassie; he tells of thousands of slaves employed in the river on which the capital stands, collecting the gold; and his stories of the nuggets he saw are most tantalizing.

Ashantee is further described as a hilly and well-watered country, with vast forests and wild sugarcane fields, and a wealth of production in tobacco, corn, rice, gums, dyes, and aromatic plants; but it also contains an awe-inspiring variety of wild beasts, among them elephants and tigers and lions and leopards, not to speak of the hippopotami and the alligators. Moreover, the climate of this part of Africa, especially near the coast, is most destructive of European life, being a strange combination of unhealthy moisture and excessive heat. The thermometer varies during the year something like eighty degrees. The regions about the coast are, besides, very swampy, and full of miasmatic influence. The climate of Ashantee itself is said to be somewhat less fatal, though in the rainy season, just now approaching, the whole region is dangerous to those accustomed to the temperate climates north of the equator. It is a palpable proof that the Ashantees are far from being the utterly savage creatures which they have long been supposed to be, that their general-in-chief has adopted a system of warfare against the invading English of great shrewdness. He has systematically avoided a direct conflict, and has marched his army

among the western tribes, with the triple object of forcing them into an alliance with King Koffee, acquiring a good base of supplies, and delaying the war until the rainy season arrives to deplete the English ranks by sickness and death.

The quarrel between the English and the Ashantees is not a very intelligible one: the English have long held a portion of the Gold Coast, other sections of which were possessed by the Danes and the Dutch. The latter have now also been acquired by the English, whose settlements, defended by Cape-Coast Castle and other forts, stretch along the shores between Liberia and Dahomey. Northward of these possessions are the peaceful and submissive tribes of the Fantees, Assins, and Ahantas, which are "protected" by the British Government; and beyond them, to the north, are the undefined dominions of Koffee Kalkali. The immediate cause of the war was a series of fierce incursions of King Koffee against the Fantees, whom he drove to Cape Coast, and whose villages he burned, but the remote cause is alleged to be the resentment felt by this potentate at not having access to the sea-coast, and at being deprived of the annual stipend which used to be granted to him by the Dutch. Whatever the grounds of the quarrel, it is certain that the English cabinet has entered upon a determined war, and intend to conquer and thoroughly punish the obstreperous Koffee. Thus they have another Abyssinia on their hands, another Theodorus to demolish. Nor is the struggle likely to be a very easy one, nor are the costs of it capable of easy reckoning. When Sir Robert Napier set out for Magdala, it was estimated that the war would cost England four millions sterling for it; she has actually had to pay nine. The Ashantee war is calculated at two millions; it is not unlikely to cost five. Koffee has been making, it is suspected, important alliances with many interior tribes; that he and his generals are skilled warriors, they have already betrayed; the English know nothing either of the numbers of his army, the manner of their equipment, or of the topographical features of the country they are about to invade; they do know that the resistance of Ashantee armies is not the only danger they have to face, but wild beasts also, and a most treacherous climate; and before they reach the promised Eldorado of the river Barra, and the capital, with its suspected golden stores, they must probably endure a long, weary, and uncertain campaign, in which they can scarcely hope to do more than temporarily put an end to Ashantee excursions coastward.

Don't Do It.—Never box your children's ears. Medical men unqualifiedly condemn the practice. Many a child has been made deaf by having its ears boxed, and others, from the same cause, have been afflicted for years, and sometimes for life, with painful diseases of the auditory organs. The passage of the ear is closed on its inner side by a thin membrane, especially adapted to be influenced by every impulse of the air, and with nothing but the air to support it internally. Any sudden or forcible compression of the air in front of this membrane is likely to injure it. Such a shock is almost sure to distend the membrane unnaturally, and sometimes it breaks it, especially when from previous disease the membrane has been weakened. Such a shock naturally injures the nerve of hearing.

San Francisco has been allowed five additional letter carriers.

The Difference.

When a woman has a hen to drive into a coop she takes hold of her hoops with both hands, and shakes them quietly toward the delinquent, and says, "Shew! there." The hen takes one look at the object, to convince herself that it's a woman, and then stalks majestically into the coop in perfect disgust of the sex. A man don't do that way. He goes out of doors, and says, "It's singular that nobody in this house can drive a hen but myself;" and, picking up a stick of wood, hurls it at the offending biped, and observes "Get in there, you thief!" The hen immediately loses her reason, and dashes to the opposite end of the yard. The man straightway dashes after her. She comes back again with her head down, her wings out, and followed by an assortment of stove-wood, fruit-cans and coal-clinkers, with a much-puffing and very-mad man in the rear. Then she skims up on the stoop and under the barn, and over a fence or two, and around the house, and back again into the coop, all the while talking as only an excited hen can talk, and all the while followed by things convenient for handling, and by a man whose coat is on the saw-back, and whose hat is on the ground, and whose perspiration and profanity appear to have no limit. By this time the other hens have come out to take a hand in the debate, and help dodge the missiles—and then the man says every hen on the place shall be sold in the morning, and puts on his things and goes down street; and the woman dons her hoops and has every one of those hens housed and contented in two minutes, and the only sound heard on the premises is the hammering by the oldest boy as he mends the broken pickets.

Saluting the American Flag.

A short time since a most ridiculous affair happened in the harbor of Rio Janeiro. An ice ship from Boston entered the bay, commanded by a Capt. Green, in the South American trade. Fort Santa Cruz, not recognizing his house flag, hailed him, and ordered him to "heave to." But the worthy skipper didn't speak Portuguese, and the simple statement of the name of his vessel, which he hurled at the fort, was not at all satisfactory; so a blank shot was fired as a mild suggestion for him to stop. But the Captain called for his revolver, and, pointing it skyward, fired six successive shots. Then a solid shot from the fort skipped across her bow, and another, better aimed, passed through his fore-sail. The fort and two shore batteries opened fire upon him, and several of his light spars were cut away. But he held on his way rejoicing, loading and firing his revolver. He finally reached quarantine, and came to anchor just as his flying jib boom went by the board. He was then so near the other shipping that they dare fire on him no longer, and the police boat, the custom house boat, and the health boat, all boarded him together with the Captain of the fort, who, with more vigor than politeness, wanted to know "Why he didn't heave!" "Heave to!" ejaculated the astonished skipper, "was that what you wanted? Good Lord! I thought you was salutin' the American flag!" "Disable!" shouted the officers in chorus, and set the case down as additional evidence of the lunacy which they regarded as a necessary ingredient of the American character.

The Virginia has been released, and sailed for a northern port.

Affairs in Greece.

While one's ears are filled with the din of the French Assembly, and one's eyes are blinded by the flame and smoke that commingle into a lurid pall above unhappy Spain, it is not likely that far-away Greece should attract much of the attention of the student of trans-Atlantic politics. But in that degenerate although once famous land of the past, there is going on a quiet revolutionary movement which may yet restore some of its faded glory, and glint the banner of modern Greece with something of the splendor which radiated from it when Athens was the intellectual queen of the world. Greece has attained its full independence, and, especially since the evacuation of the Ionian Isles, stands in a position to render that independence fruitful of national prosperity. The King has larger power, perhaps, than the average constitutional sovereign, but in his attempt to lift up his people he must act with a firmness and enterprise, and a largeness of views, commensurate with his patriotic desire. Before he dreams of establishing a wise and progressive government, it is absolutely necessary that many of the glaring evils under which Greece suffers should be done away with. And the chief of these is the system of brigandage which still flourishes in the waste interior. So long as the farmer, bringing his scanty produce to market, is forced to remunerate the robber who stops him in a lonely ravine, so long will agriculture languish. And if he escape the brigand, there is still another robber—the tax-gatherer—who is almost as remorseless. The whole system of rural taxation in Greece lacks common sense, and is consequently unjust. But despite these drawbacks the country has made a decided move in the line of educational reform; and it is in raising the standard of the popular intelligence that she must look principally for the desired improvement. Reading and writing are, after all, the machinery of power, and the phrase, "the pen is mightier than the sword," is no sophism. It was her intellectual graces that raised Greece to such a dazzling height in the past, and her return to the neighborhood of her old importance can only be accomplished by some such means. And now is her chance. The decay of the Ottoman Empire already foreshadows the part that Greece may yet play in the drama of the East, if she is but true to herself. But there are political adventurers to be gotten rid of, and the line of demarcation between church and State must be drawn clearly. As it is now, the ecclesiastical hampers the statesman. When these things are done the sails of Greece will be filled by a fair wind, and her course will be smooth, should there be no interference on the part of Russia. But such possible interference is too remote to be looked at now.

A good housewife should not be a person of one idea, but should be familiar with the *flower garden* as well as with the *flour barrel*; and, though her *lesson* should be to *lessen* expense, *odor* of a fine rose should not be less valued than the *order* of her household. She will prefer a yard of shrubbery to a yard of satin. If her husband is a skilful *sower* of grain, she is equally skilful as a *sewer* of garments. He keeps his *hose* bright by use; she keeps the *hoss* of the whole family in order.

How can we get rich? By laying aside the effort to become wealthy, and trying to be comfortable.

TELEGRAPHIC.

The Treasury Department is somewhat pressed for money, not only by the falling off of revenues, but by the appropriation of five millions of dollars for naval purposes, and the payment of the twenty million loan of 1858. Secretary Richardson claims that it is better to obtain the necessary funds by taxation than by increasing the national debt. He suggests a higher tax on tea and coffee.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill authorizing the temporary increase of the Navy from 8,500 to 10,000 men.

Elections for Assemblymen were held in parts of France on the 14th.

Castelar and Salmeron have had a reconciliation.

The English off the gold coast are suffering with fever.

Prof. Proctor, the English Astronomer Royal, has opposed the award of the gold medal to Miss Mitchell, on the ground that, altho' she had undoubtedly discovered the comet, she had neglected to send news of the discovery by the first mail. Professor Proctor predicts a wonderful scientific future for America.

A *Tribune* special says the President refuses to accept the resignation of Sickles, and he remains at Madrid.

The Supreme Court has decided that States have the right to tax railroads.

Increase of public debt during the month, five millions.

On the 16th, in the House, Sargent introduced a bill relative to the public lands in California, and fixing the uniform price at \$1 25 per acre for mineral and agricultural lands.

Page introduced a bill making it felony to contract for the employment of Coolies in this country.

Nesmith introduced a bill to ascertain the losses by Indian raids in Oregon, and to transfer the management of Indian affairs to the War Department.

In the Senate, Mitchell introduced a bill directing the Secretary of War to cause surveys to be made to determine the practicability and cost of removing the Cascades and Dalles of the Columbia river. Ordered printed.

A terrific storm in Sheffield, England, destroyed much property and many lives.

General Howard is up before a House Committee, and waives technicalities, claiming to court the fullest investigation.

The late storm in England proved disastrous all over the north.

The Swiss Government has reimbursed Count Staemphi the expenses incurred by him as a member of the Geneva Court Arbitration. The Count declined any honoration in the form of a testimonial.

The bill repealing the bankrupt act has passed the lower house of Congress.

Wool in Philadelphia on the 16th was stiff with an advancing tendency. California fine 35c; coarse, 20 to 30c per pound.