

**SAN FRANCISCO.**

**Peculiarities That Strike a Stranger Forcibly—Singular Customs in Eating and Drinking—Railway Travel and the Chinese.**

A San Francisco correspondent of *The St. Louis Republican* says: One does not have to be familiar with the history of the state of California to obtain a knowledge of the pious character of its early settlers, as well as their nationality. The geographical nomenclature of the state indicates both. More than one hundred and fifty names of cities, towns, counties, places, mountains, rivers, and bodies of water have the Spanish prefixes of "San" or "Santa," the English of which is "saint." These Spanish pioneers named the present capital of the state Sacramento, which means "sacrament." Having apparently exhausted the calendar and desiring an appropriate name for what may be called the garden spot of this great country they gave it the title of Los Angeles, which being literally interpreted is "the city of angels." Later immigrants followed the example of their Spanish predecessors and prefixed the English abbreviation "St." to the names of fifteen places, and also adopting "angel" as a desirable cognomen gave us Angel Island, Angel ranch, and Angels' camp. I imagine that the western sense of humor, which deals largely in incongruities, will account for these appellations rather than the angelic nature of the inhabitants.

So far as my observation goes the Californian is very much like the American of the Mississippi valley. He is equally as civilized, equally as broad-minded, equally as cultured, equally as liberal, equally as generous, and not more so. The proverbial customs of having "the latch string on the outside," "dividing the last crust," and "staking a partner down on his luck" are no more common here than they are elsewhere. That these virtuous and highly-to-be commended habits existed before the days of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, and all the benefits and detriments which their coming brought, I have no doubt. The primitive state of society which then existed caused people to be more dependent upon each other than they are now. The exigencies of the precarious mode of living and of making a living were such that it was not uncommon for him who was prosperous yesterday to be empty-handed to-day. Experience, therefore, induced one who had to cast his bread upon the waters for he was well aware that he might need it in the future, and the prospect of finding it when needed was greatly enhanced by keeping up the custom of large-hearted hospitality and open-handed generosity which then prevailed. To-day, however, they take the stranger in—in another than a biblical sense—and the able-bodied tramp is regarded and treated here as the same old nuisance that he has proved himself to be in the older states.

Of course there are various differences in customs and habits prevailing. But these differences exist in all parts of the United States and are not more marked here than elsewhere. For instance, there is but very little paper money in circulation, and it is an indication of a "tender foot" to see a stranger display much of it. While specie is regarded as inconvenient in "the states," here the contrary idea exists. I am becoming used to it, but not long since I tendered a coin to a street-car conductor thinking it was a nickel, and was not made aware of the fact that I had offered him a \$5 gold piece until he said he could not make the change. I apprehend that this dislike of paper currency is not caused by any doubt of its genuine character, but is simply the result of custom long continued, for specie circulated in California during the war when it was only a meretricious commodity in the states east of the Rocky mountains.

In making up passenger trains on the California roads the cars are graded from front to rear. Instead of having the drawing room and palace cars in the rear, as is usual in the east, these cars are placed next behind the baggage and express cars, and behind the palace cars come the first-class day cars, these being followed by the second and third-class coaches. The very good reason for this arrangement and which I should think equally applies on all railroads is, that the rear cars catch the dust of all the cars ahead of them. On coming across the continent this western arrangement of cars was not made on our train until we reached Deming, N. M., where all the cars were changed on the train. Thus passengers on sleepers had to change as well as all others. It was explained that this change is made in the interest of hygiene, and, therefore, for the health and comfort of the passengers, it being found that the long trip across got the cars in so filthy a condition that it was necessary to change them at least once between the Mississippi and the Pacific.

When the trains of the Atchison & Topeka and those of the Southern Pacific reach the station called Tehichips, which is north of the junction of those two roads, and when the trains on the Union Pacific reach Ogden, the names of all first-class passengers coming to San Francisco are taken for publication in the San Francisco papers. Thus the tourist's coming is announced before his arrival, and if he stops at a hotel when he arrives his name is again printed.

ed. In a country of tourists this printing of the names of those coming as well as the hotel arrivals is very convenient.

Generally, transient rates for board are equally as cheap in California as elsewhere. I got a better dinner at a restaurant for 25 cents than I could get in St. Louis for the same money. The food was well cooked and well served. But a peculiarity I have noticed only in California restaurants is that a plate of food is not furnished, the guest being expected to eat his food from the dish upon which it is served. This custom is said to be very general here in first-class eating-houses. The whisky is not as good here as we are accustomed to in St. Louis, and the beer I have sampled is vile. Drinks are "two for a quarter." For a single drink a tender of 10 or 15 cents seems satisfactory in either case; but if a coin of larger denomination is tendered the change that is made shows that 15 cents have been taken out. The custom was and the theory is to sell a drink for a "bit"—12½ cents—and since the disappearance of the convenient Mexican coin of former times the odd 2½ cents goes or stays according to circumstances.

What to do with the Chinese is one of the features of the great labor question with which the people of this country have to deal, and which has not yet presented itself prominently in the east. It is a difficult problem. Since the convention at Sacramento, held some three weeks since, at which it was resolved to organize and carry on a systematic boycott against the Chinese and those who employ or deal with them, anti-Chinese leagues have been formed all over the state. These leagues are organized as if they meant business. Agitators from the parent society visit the local leagues, speeches to encourage the members was made, and money is collected to carry on the work. I heard an address delivered by one of these agitators which, no doubt, set forth the main points urged by the supporters of the boycott. The speaker was introduced by Mr. John W. Breckinridge, a son of the late vice-president of the United States, and his audience of about three hundred was mostly laboring men, who appeared to be in hearty accord with the movement.

**Kick Them Out.**

When a man, speaking in public, advocates murder, arson and robbery, he ought to be dealt with precisely as if he had committed those crimes.

The anarchists and socialists who publicly advocate murder, arson or robbery are, indeed, more guilty than the ignorant and vicious fellows who following their advice, proceed to kill, burn and rob.

The socialistic leaders are too cowardly to do what they advocate and advise. They take care of their own loathsome carcasses. When danger threatens, they hide like rats, and their poor, ignorant dupes are left to suffer the consequences of their crimes.

There should be a limit to free speech in this country. No man should be permitted to advocate crime in a public speech or in print. Any man who does this should be punished. The law should step in and put a stop to his criminal utterances. The receiver of stolen goods is, in the eyes of the law, as bad as a thief; and the scoundrel who publicly advocates murder, arson or robbery should be punished just as severely as if he committed any or all of these crimes. He is a public enemy and should be treated as such. The Anarchists and Communists must be taught that their principles and their methods have no place in this country, and these incendiary vermin should be locked up in the penitentiaries or driven out of the land.

They denounce our government, these foreign scum. They deride our flag, these pestilent outcasts of Europe. They threaten the lives, property, peace and happiness of our people, these loathsome and vicious fiends. We have laughed at their vapors, for years, but recent events have shown that they are dangerous, and it is time that they should be dealt with, promptly, firmly, and without mercy. They must be taught that this country is not a refuge for thieves and assassins. The American people, however much or widely they may differ upon these questions, will be united as one man in demanding that the scoundrels who openly preach murder, arson and robbery shall be dealt with as enemies of the Republic and as dangerous disturbers of public peace and order.—*Atchison Champion.*

**How Italians Cure the Ear-Ache.**

A remedy, one unequalled indeed for ear-ache, is that in use among the sailors and bathers at Viareggio and Leghorn, and indeed all along the coast of that part of Italy. A piece of old linen is spread with melted beeswax—the purer the better—and then rolled tightly into a cornucopia shape, the small end of which is introduced into the patient's ear as he lies down. The cornucopia should not be less than three, four, or even five inches long. Flannel cloths are then laid over the head and face, the cornucopia is set alight, and burns slowly as long as the patient can bear it, until burned quite near the face, when it is removed from the ear. This proceeding gives almost instant relief, and if the pain happens to have been caused by the presence of any foreign substance in the ear, it will come away with the cornucopia.—*London Society.*

**FLUSH TIMES IN THE SOUTH.**

**How the speculators flourished there during the war.**

"The war made us rich," said a Boston tourist the other day, "but the condition of business in the confederacy must have been unfavorable from first to last, as the currency was all the time depreciating." From his standpoint the Boston man was right, but our unstable currency did not prevent many of our people from making fortunes. During the four years of the war business was on a boom all over the south. Our merchants caught the speculative fever very early.

Secession came just in time to keep the drygoods men from laying in their spring stocks, but they did the best that could be done. They sent their agents all through Tennessee and Kentucky and bought out the entire stocks of hundreds of country stores. Many Tennessee merchants refueged with their goods during the first year of the war to the interior southern cities, so that the blockade found us pretty well supplied. A depreciated currency does not hurt trade. It is offset by the continual rise in the price of merchandise. In those days it was out of the question to have any seeing mark affixed to goods. Prices rose too rapidly for that. Clerks were instructed to raise their figures about once a week, sometimes lumping up 10 per cent, and sometimes as high as 50 per cent. Customers living in cities and towns took all this as a matter of course. They found confederate money easy to get and spent it liberally. Country people, however, were emphatic in their protests. Money was scarce with them, and as many of their bread-winners were in the army they had a hard time.

In the cities active young men who had been clerking on \$30 or \$40 a month set up in business for themselves as soon as they saw the dawn of flush times. They made money. It was not necessary to buy with judgment. All they had to do was to buy something, in fact anything, and it soon turned to gold; that is, to confederate money. This sudden prosperity ruined many a good fellow. I recollect one clerk, a model young man, a straitlaced chap, who threw up his job in the summer of 1861 and plunged into speculation. In two years he was a bloated bondholder. His carriage and coachman fairly glittered. One of his speculative investments was a wife, and she exhibited his diamonds to splendid advantage. He was too sharp to be caught napping, and when the war ended he had money enough to satisfy any reasonable man. Then came bad luck. His wife died. His diamonds and equipage disappeared. He lost at every turn, and a few years ago, when I saw him for the last time, he was a slovenly bar-keeper in a third-rate saloon.

More than one man in Atlanta made millions out of government contracts. Speculators, tradesmen, and manufacturers struck it rich. What did they do with their money? Some spent it in extravagant living. Some purchased slaves, and others bought confederate bonds. Others still looked ahead and prepared for the final crash. These turned their money into greenbacks, gold, town property, tobacco, cotton, diamonds, etc. One man owned a hundred dwelling houses in Atlanta. After Sherman's visit he had about twenty left. Another successful business man purchased thirty plantations, besides all the Atlanta property he could get.

Of the men who accumulated wealth so rapidly and invested it so wisely how many held their grip on their fortunes? Not one! It is a startling thing to put in cold type, but as I look back over a long list of men who rose from comparative poverty to affluence during the war I cannot think of a single one who is in comfortable circumstances to-day. My Boston friend was under the impression that conscription broke up our business men. Nothing of the kind. Even at the very last the confederacy had a surplus of speculators and storekeepers. Some were exempt on account of age or physical disability; some conducted a manufacturing business and were detailed to attend to it, and some, it must be said, were so wealthy and influential that they were above the law.

It will be surmised that the south was almost stripped of the luxuries of life toward the close of the struggle. This is a mistake. Adventurers were all the time running the blockade. There was nothing that our society ladies could not buy if they were willing to pay the price. We had no duds in those days, but young men who wanted a stylish rig had no difficulty in getting it. No doubt many of the articles smuggled through came from Yankeeedom instead of from England and France. Some of the wideawake brethren on the other side of the line operated a double schedule. They took federal contracts, and on the sly supplied the confederates for a heavy cash consideration. We even had the time and inclination to smuggle books through the lines. "Les Miserables," for instance, came through, and Vice President Stephens and other leading men read the New York and Philadelphia edition long before the Richmond publishers issued it in five little brown-paper-covered volumes. If literature could run the blockade it goes without saying that anything could.

Of course there is another side to the picture. The country districts were

drained of their men, horses, mules, and produce. The farmers and the women were not speculators. They felt the evils of war long before the contending armies were in the neighborhood. This state of affairs reacted upon the army in the field. Our soldiers and farmers had to stand or fall together, and both were involved in the general wreck. The speculators had their turn later.—*Atlanta Constitution.*

**TRAVELING IN PERSIA.**

**A Curious Vehicle, Peculiar to the Country.**

One curious circumstance about the journey, however, was the fact that we were obliged to journey by night. The great heat made it impossible to travel in Persia in the middle of the day during the greater part of the year. Our departure was therefore so timed that we could have the benefit of the full moon. Once on the road, and winding through narrow lanes at a moderate walk, we were able to observe what an imposing procession we made. At the head rode the *giltadar*, or equeiry, mounted on a white Shirazee Arab stallion. Two gentlemen followed, and next to them came several ladies on donkeys; the *tachtravan* was next in order carrying the invalid of the party. This is a curious vehicle, peculiar to Persia and Turkey. It is a covered litter borne between two mules, and contains sliding doors and windows. It is rendered reasonably comfortable by mattresses, on which a person can lie at full length. The *tachtravan* of the wealthy is sometimes handsomely decorated, and mention is made of kings of Persia using it many centuries ago. But generally this conveyance is more heavily constructed than is necessary, owing to the difficulty of finding wood which is at once light and strong in Persia. The march of a *tachtravan* is necessarily tediously slow, but it is announced for a long distance by the strings of jangling bells carried by the gaily-decorated mules, which do not, however, seem to appreciate the wealth and weight of ornament lavished upon them. On level roads the *tachtravan* is a real luxury; but when there is a steep ascent or descent combined with bad roads this form of locomotion is not only very trying to the mules, but is also a severe strain on the rider, both on account of the exertion requisite in preserving his position and the nervous strain caused by watching the frequent peril of being hurled over a precipice. At the head of the leading mule marched an Arab, Abdullah Ibn Hossan. His gait was that of a prince; he was six feet in height, sparely built, and perfectly erect. A camel's-hair tunic reached to the ankles. His head was muffled with a striped mantle, bound around the forehead with a white chord. His swarthy features were haggard, but yet handsome, and the dark orbs which flashed from under cavernous brows were marked by a proud and romantic melancholy, deepening into a glow of injured pride tinged with sadness when he was refused a backsheesh, as if he would reproach you for having disappointed the confidence he had reposed in your elevated generosity. What a standard is to an army was this son of the desert to our lumbering train. He gave to it such a bearing that he seemed to be the chief person in it, instead of a poor mule-driver earning 20 cents a day traversing the waste of an ancient land—mule-driver by descent, and father of mule-drivers of the future.—*L. G. W. Benjamin, in The Century.*

**Divorce and Intermediate Husband.**

Many Americans are inclined to think that in no country is divorce so readily and expeditiously obtained as in theirs. But in Arabia and some other Mohammedan lands a man can, it is said, get rid of his wife on the slightest pretext. Some Arabs, barely 40 years old, have been known to have had forty wives—one for each year of their life—and they seldom wed before 16 or 17, or have more than one wife at a time. By the Mohammedan law a husband may put aside his wife without any form or ceremony, merely by oral declaration and by repayment of a portion, usually one-third, of her dowry. He may put her aside twice and take her again, even without her consent, but if he repudiate her a third time she can be recovered only after a fully consummated marriage with and divorce from a second man. This involves some awkwardness and inconveniences. When a Mohammedan, having twice dismissed his wife, wants her once more, he selects the oldest, feeblest and poorest man he can find, and induces him with a certain sum to discharge the legal requirements and release his bride on the morrow. It happens occasionally, however, that the intermediary husband, after having entered into the covenant and received the money, refuses to relinquish his wife, especially if she be pretty and rich. He demands more money and extends his usufruct until he secures it. Hence, men who divorce their wives for trifles once or twice are comparatively careful not to divorce them the third time, since the intermediate fellow is an untoward fellow to manage. Intermediate husband is a matrimonial part we have not yet attempted to play here.—*New York Commercial.*

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