

The Daily



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EGYPTIAN HAREM LIFE.
An American Woman's Views behind the Curtain.
You ask if there is any home-life in Egypt, that old, old land of science, legend, and superstition; of sensuous coloring, of semi-barbaric splendor, of Isis, and Osiris, of Cleopatra, the magnificent, and the mysterious pyramids—is there any home-life there? No, certainly not, as we understand it. Of course the people there must eat, drink, and sleep in obedience to the inexorable laws of our common humanity, but there can be no domestic life where there is no woman at the head of the household, and the Egyptian women are mere nullities. There is no middle class, so that they are divided into the two class extremes of high and low.

The high life is that of the harem, as they call it, and not harem, and is much better known throughout Europe than that of the lower class Egyptian women. During my residence in Cairo I was frequently admitted to the harem on the invitation of the mother of the Viceroy of Egypt, Ismail Pasha, father of the present pasha. Ismail was the viceroy, or second in distinction to the sultan of Egypt. The pasha was so afraid of being poisoned that his mother cooked all his food, and for that purpose she accompanied him wherever he went.

Poisoning is the favorite method in that country in getting rid of an obnoxious person. It is much more speedy and infinitely less expensive than a State trial. With the exception of the viceroy's mother, I never knew a woman of high position to know anything at all of the culinary art. I used often to spend a whole day in the harem, and never saw any of the women doing anything useful. They are very seldom taught to read or write. Conversation is generally carried on with a foreigner in French, through the aid of an interpreter. I soon picked up Arabic enough to converse with them without aid. They live in great splendor and total idleness. They have no pictures in their palaces, and possess no foreign or native literature. They never sew or even knit. Their only recreation consists in seeing girls dance and in listening to some barbaric music, or to stories told them by an old woman in true Arabian Nights' style. The Egyptian women are fully developed at the age of thirteen, and old at thirty. Their forms are usually most exquisite until fat, that bane of both men and women in high life, destroys the delicate beauty of their outline. The upper portion of their faces, eyes, brows, and forehead are wondrously lovely; but the lower part, below the nose, is ugly, badly formed, and heavy, as a rule. Fortunately for them, they are enabled to conceal these defects by the veil they wear. So far from being discontented with their lot, they were much surprised when the utmost pity for their civilized sisters, especially in matters of the heart. They say, our husbands can care nothing for us, or they would not allow other men to look upon our faces, and think that civilized women possess no modesty, to go unveiled. To amuse them I told them once of the great surplus of female population in the New England States—largely maiden—and of the struggles so many of our girls there and elsewhere are obliged to undergo in order to earn their own living. They laughingly quoted a proverb answering to ours of half a loaf being better than no bread at all, and declared that the fractional possession of a husband was better than no husband at all. They were much surprised, even indignant, that we should call ourselves civilized and yet make laws compelling a rich man to have but one wife, when he might maintain fifty or more, and so husbands and support for our hard-working, single women would be provided.

As the men do the cooking and the main part of the sewing in Egypt, it is easy to see why there is no employment for women. Except in rare cases, their intelligence does not exceed that of an American child ten or twelve years of age. Therefore, the men, although themselves not much superior, still have hardly any respect for them, and, as there is little of the sentiment of love among them, they seem to look upon their women only as indispensable adjuncts of the continuance of the race.

Let me describe a dinner in the harem when a guest is present. Their tables are always circular and about a foot and a half in height. They sit like dolls around them on cushions. The old, inactive, and fat, once down, have to be pulled up. They serve but one dish at a time, and that in a large, circular salver of silver, brass, or sometimes gold. They have no forks, knives, or spoons, but each dips two fingers of the right hand into the dish and takes out a bit, the meat having been cut into small pieces in the kitchen. If they wish to particularly distinguish a visitor, they select a dainty piece and place it in her mouth. It would be an insult to betray any feeling but delight at such a mark of favor. A great dish for a feast, and one which few Christian women have ever tasted, is that of a lamb roasted whole. After the manner of a nest of Chinese boxes, each smaller than the other, the lamb is stuffed with a whole turkey, the turkey with a chicken, the chicken with a pigeon, the pigeon with a quail, the quail

with a becalica, the smallest bird known except the humming-bird. It resembles our reed-bird in taste, and makes just a mouthful. The lamb is roasted over a slow fire until it is cooked to shreds and melts into one, as it were. The Egyptians have no systematized way of eating, no set time for meals, but keep up a continual munching of sweets, of which they have a great variety unknown to us, and all sickeningly sweet to a European palate. They use honey for sugar. In an Egyptian kitchen there is a total absence of what a civilized cook would consider indispensable in the way of cooking utensils and appliances. There is no dresser upon which to arrange the dishes; there is no sink nor running water, nor anything like our cooking stove or range, but upon one side of the kitchen there is erected a structure of masonry which resembles a great square shelf with deep drawers, the openings to which are on the top. This queer object is the Egyptian range—the openings are charcoal furnaces, and as they are disconnected a cook can have a dozen fires, or only one, as he desires. I have often been astonished at the excellence and delicacy of a dinner cooked upon one of these rude ranges.—[New York Star.

Be Remembered.
"And you pretend to say," remarked a lawyer to a witness, that you remember the exact words this man said to you ten years ago?"
"I do."

"Well, if my memory serves me, I met you at Saratoga about five years ago, and I should like to know if you can swear to any expression which I then made."
"I can."
"Now, Mr. J., I want you to remember that you are under oath. Now, under oath, you swear that you can quote with great accuracy a remark I made to you at Saratoga five years ago?"
"I can."
"Well, what was it?"
"You met me in the hotel corridor."
"Yes, quite correct."
"And you shook hands with me."
"Naturally I did."
"And you said to me: 'Let's go and take something.'"
The cry of the court had to call silence for ten minutes, and the lawyer confessed that the witness had a remarkable memory.—[Boston Journal.

"Here," said Peterson, entering a store and throwing down a very gaudy red and black striped suit, "take this thing back; I don't want it." "But we don't take back bathing suits after we have sold them once." "I don't care; you may have this one, I don't want it." "What's the matter with it?" "Why, I was swimming in it off Long Branch, and a whole fleet of yachts took me for a buoy and rounded me. I don't want any more of that."—[Puck.

A New York Sunday-school teacher told her pupils that when they put their pennies into the contribution box she wanted each one to repeat a Bible verse suitable for the occasion. The first boy dropped in his cent, saying: "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." The next boy dropped his penny into the box, saying: "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." The third and youngest boy dropped in his penny, saying: "A fool and his money are soon parted."—[Detroit Journal.

The most bitter opponents of monopolies are those who didn't buy stock in them when it was for sale.

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Most Beneficial in Bronchitis—Dr. J. P. NEEDS, Harmon Mills, N. C., says: "I used Scott's Emulsion in a case of Bronchitis of six months' standing and the patient was well in ten days. I must confess my surprise at its healing and strengthening powers."
A man went into Knows Lake, near Middletown, O., after laying a wager that he could remain under water two minutes. He won the bet, but he'll never get the money.—[The Phoenix, Augusta, Ga.

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It got a twist,
The pain, I long endured it;
And then one day
It passed away,
St. Jacobs Oil quick cured it.
"And how does Charlie like going to school?" kindly inquired a good man of a six year-old boy. "I like goin' well enough," replied the embryo statesman, ingeniously; "but I don't like stayin' after I get there."
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is imparted to the kidneys and bladder by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which is most useful in overcoming torpidity of these organs. Besides infusing more activity into them, this excellent tonic endows them with additional vigor, and enables them the better to undergo the wear and tear of the discharging function imposed on them by nature. Moreover, as they are the channel for the escape of certain impurities from the blood, increases their usefulness by strengthening and healthfully stimulating them. In certain morbid conditions of these important organs they fall into a sluggish state, which is the usual precursor of disease. What then can be of greater service than a medicine which imparts to them a greater activity when sluggish? No maladies are more perilous than those which effect the kidneys, and a medicine which averts the peril should be highly esteemed.

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. W. R. BERNARD.
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I suffered intensely with *Full Stomach, Headache, etc.* A neighbor, who had taken *Simmons' Liver Regulator*, told me it was a sure cure for my trouble. The first dose I took relieved me very much, and in one week's time I was as strong and hearty as I ever was. It is the best medicine I ever took for *Dyspepsia*.
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Testimony of *Hiram Warnes*, Chief Justice of Ohio: "I have used *Simmons' Liver Regulator* for Constipation of my Bowels, caused by a temporary derangement of the Liver, for the last three or four years, and always with *decided benefit*."
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