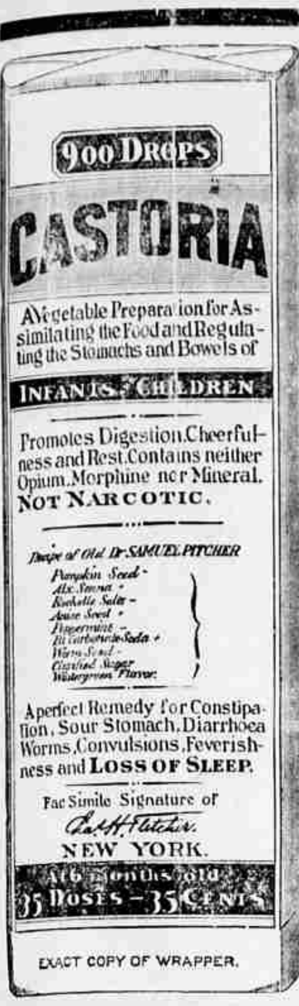

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For Infants and Children.

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CASTORIA

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

AT THE DAMASCUS GATE

An Eastern Tradition.

BY J. W. HENDERSON.

There lived in Constantinople in the year 1785 Ben Urisself, a Mohammedan high in authority and favor with the Turkish government. During the 30 years of his life he had walked uprightly according to the teachings of the Alkoran.

In the springtime Ben Urisself was sent to Jerusalem by the sultan's government. He had not long been in the ancient city of the Jews before he saw and loved a beautiful Jewish maiden named Rachel. According to the custom of his people, Ben Urisself at once made overtures to have the fair Hebrew become a member of his harem; but, although the family of Rachel was very poor, his offer was rejected with scorn. Moved by the beauty of the maiden, he did not seek to force his attentions by the exercise of his official authority, but disguised himself as a humble pilgrim and succeeded in making the acquaintance of the object of his affection, and by his fine personal appearance and pleasing manners won her heart.

Now, Rachel, although of Jewish parentage, was a Christian, and, under her influence and amid the surroundings made sacred by the life and death of the Man of Galilee, Ben Urisself became a convert to the Christian faith and renounced Mohammed. His apostasy reached the ears of the sultan, and an order for his arrest was dispatched to Jerusalem. A friend of the condemned man gave him warning before the arrival of the messenger, and he was able to make good his escape from Turkish territory, but he was compelled to leave behind him everything he possessed and did not even have an opportunity to see and take leave of his beloved Rachel. Through the long years of his exile he never heard from her, but her memory never faded from his heart.

For many years after his flight Ben Urisself lived unhappily, toiling in abject poverty for the barest necessities of physical existence. Finally, when he had reached his seventy-third year, believing himself unrecognizable and being filled with desire to visit once more the spot where his heart had first opened to a human and a divine love, he determined to return to Jerusalem.

Old and feeble and possessing no money to purchase transportation, it was many weeks before Ben Urisself approached the Holy City. At the close of a toilsome day's journey, footsore and faint from fatigue and hunger, he reached the Damascus gate of the city, but found it closed, for it was after sunset. Feeling incapable of much more exertion, he turned away from the gate and, seeking a place of rest, started to climb the skull shaped mount directly east from the Damascus gate. As he toiled wearily up the hill he heard a feeble voice calling for help. In the fading light he discovered an old blind woman sitting by the wayside. He bent over her, and she told him she had been wandering about for a long time, having lost her way, and no one would lead her to the gate of the city. When she learned that it was night and that the gate was closed, she begged him not to leave her alone. He was moved by her helpless condition and took her by the hand.

Thus the decrepit old man and feeble blind woman tottered up the pathway along which the Son of Mary had borne the heavy cross 1,800 years before. When they reached the top of the mount, they sat down, and the old woman, being very weary, fell asleep, but Ben Urisself watched. Just as the first ray of dawn glanced above the eastern summit of the mount he saw by its pale light two blood red flowers supported upon white stems blooming near him. He stretched forth his hand and gathered them. One he laid in the open hand of his companion and the other he held upon his own palm. At that moment the first beams of the morning sun touched the blossom. It seemed to dissolve and leave in his hand a red drop which looked like blood. Urisself reverently raised it to his lips, and at the touch he felt new life and strength animate his body and course through his veins. Then he awoke his aged companion, and, taking her hand, in which also appeared a red drop, he raised it to her lips, and, behold, the semblance of age passed away! A fair young maiden stood before him, and great was the joy of Ben Urisself when he recognized his Rachel, the only love of his life. Her eyes, which had been blind, looked into his with the old love light, clear and undimmed.

So these two people walked down from the mount hand in hand, restored to youth and beauty. And through a long, happy life they walked together. Ben Urisself, with lips touched by holy fire, sang beautiful songs which reached the hearts of men, and he and his beloved wife Rachel were held in the highest respect and love by all men.

Once every century, on the anniversary of the night of the crucifixion, two flowers bloom on the spot where the blood of Christ sank into the ground. Any deserving hand may gather and gain from their touch new life, but only the believing eye can see, and only the deserving soul may pluck them.—Nickell.

Pretty Cheap Charity.

Standing on the corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street one day recently a detective noticed an old woman in the act of stooping and searching for something. He was about to step up to her and offer her his assistance when a young woman, evidently a working girl from her clothes, stopped. The detective stood aside.

"Have you lost anything?" asked the girl.

"Yes; I lost 5 cents," replied the old woman.

"Your car fare, I know," the impulsive girl said. "Here, take mine, and I'll walk home. It won't hurt me one bit."

The old woman took it, and walking over to a Salvation Army collection box she dropped it in.

"Thank you ever so much," she said. "I didn't want to break a quarter."

"Wouldn't that break a person of trying to be good?" asked the girl as she trudged her weary way to the west end.—Pittsburg News.

Agreed With Him.

"I'm not at all discouraged in my efforts to become a musician, but I must say that it requires a great deal of patience to learn to play on the violin."

"I have no doubt that your neighbors are all convinced of that."—Boston Courier.

THEIR HOME

Tip and I were going to build a home. We decided upon that as soon as we were formally engaged, for, as I told Tip, I had always heard that if a man has a pleasant home of his own he is much less apt to fall back on the clubs and bachelor dissipations. Tip quite agreed with me and added that he had always heard that a young married woman needed a home, as she was apt to fall into frivolous, idle ways if boarding, and nine times out of ten would get into mischief.

This made me angry. "Do you mean, Tipton Marchmont, that I"— I began, but he hastened to say he thought I would be the tenth woman and could make a paradise in a boarding house or anywhere else and produced a book of plans, in which we were absorbed the rest of the evening. Unfortunately our tastes were so dissimilar that the plans which Tip admired I thought horrid, and vice versa. You have no idea how that book, "Twenty Beautiful Designs of a Home," affected us. I assure you if we had not been too well bred I honestly believe we would have come to blows over the plans for the house we expected to pass a happy, blissful future in together. As we each expected to put an equal amount in the building, neither felt the right to say positively that it must be this style or that.

Finally, finding our engagement in danger of being broken off, we agreed upon leaving the whole matter to an experienced architect, each promising to be satisfied with the result, and I did not go near the place until it was finished, preferring to see it in a completed state. The wedding was set for the 1st of December, the arrangement being that we would return from our trip in time to give a royal housewarming. The day the keys were turned over to Tip he came for me, and we went to look at the place, cooing like two turtledoves on the way, convinced that we were the happiest people in the world.

I had an idea that Tip would break our contract enough to give the architect a few private hints of what I liked, so I was awfully disappointed to find that he had not and that the house bore no semblance to the dream house I had built. Tip was in high glee and did not notice my lack of enthusiasm. I stood it as long as I could before I broke out:

"I don't like it one bit, Tipton Marchmont, and think you're real mean not to have had it suit me better."

Tip's Irish blood was up in a minute. "I think you are aware," he said stiffly, "that we left it, by mutual consent, altogether to the architect's taste."

"He seems to have followed some other person's taste pretty closely," I said, with an insinuating toss of my head. I hope I may never see Tip as angry again as he was then. He didn't swear, but looked as though he was dying to, as he retorted hotly:

"I suppose you mean to say that I"—

But right there I stopped him, saying: "Distinctly understand that I insinuate nothing, but since this horrid, ugly, tasteless old house pleases you I wish you joy of living in it. I, for one, never expect to darken its doors again."

"What do you mean, Madge?" he asked sternly. "Aren't you going to keep your promise and marry me?"

"Not if you expect me to live in this house," I answered defiantly.

Tip grew defiant, too, and said: "Madge, don't be absurd. We certainly will live here."

I had not thought he could be so cruel, but expected him to make all sorts of concessions which I would accept, kindly referring afterward to my magnanimity, so I answered that I certainly would not and told him I considered our engagement at an end. Tip stood as if he had been struck for a moment before he said in a changed voice: "What is to be done about the house? You forget it is half yours."

"It is nothing to me what is done with it," I answered, grandly indifferent to the fact that two-thirds of my patrimony was invested in it. Then I walked out, leaving Tip in full possession. Once safely outside, I dropped my veil to hide the tears that would fall, while I sobbed out: "Oh, why was Tip so unkind, and why was I so hateful? The house might have been altered after a bit to please me, but now it is too late."

At the end of three miserable days the note I had been hoping for came, but it only said:

Miss Pardey:

Dear Madam—I have arranged with Nece & Bros. to put the house 333 B street on their sale list. They hope to make a speedy sale, in the event of which your share of the amount will be placed to your credit at the National. Respectfully,

TIPTON MARCHMONT.

I told myself bitterly that a man who could write such a letter to the girl he had sworn to love always was a heartless monster and the girl was well rid of him. For two days afterward I cried steadily, but toward the end of the next day went out behind a heavy veil to get some fresh air. Wandering aimlessly about, my feet unconsciously strayed in the direction of that miserable house, when a sudden yearning to go in it, once more to dream for a little time of the joys I had hoped would be mine under its rooftree, impelled me to run up the steps and try the door. It had been left unlocked, by the careless agents no doubt, and I felt indignant at their lack of care.

As I passed through room after room I began to think I could tolerate—nay, even love—the place. But at the door of the little suit of rooms which were designed for our private apartments I hesitated a moment, then opened it softly for one hasty glance around. A cry escaped my lips, for in the dim light I saw the figure of a man in the window seat, his head resting on his hands in a dejected way, his frame shaking as if with dry sobs. At my cry he raised his head and started to his feet, and then I saw that it was Tip, and before I could beat a retreat he had rushed at me, crying, "Madge, my darling!" and had folded me in his arms. With my head resting on his dear breast, with his arms holding me as if they would never let me go again, I could only say, "Tip, dear Tip!" and burst into a flood of happy tears that washed all the bitterness of our quarrel away.

The housewarming took place "as advertised" at 333 B street, Nece & Bros. failing to make a sale because the owners concluded to keep the house and occupy it themselves.—Exchange.

In Case of Fire.

He—Miss Frost, I can no longer repress the warmth of sentiment your charms have kindled. There is a passion burning within me—

She—Ah, then I had better call father! He is a fire insurance agent.—Richmond Dispatch.

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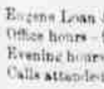

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