

THE FIRE-WORSHIPPERS.

Description of an Entertainment Given by a Race Nobleman.

Perhaps no face of people is less known or more interesting to the student and traveler than the Parsees or Fire-Worshippers of India. They are delightful hosts, and, as it was my good fortune to form the acquaintances of Sir Francesco Dashaw Pettit, who was knighted for a gift of \$500,000 to an educational institution, I will endeavor to describe an entertainment I attended at his palace. Sir Francesco lives in patriarchal magnificence, and when his whole family is seated at table they number fifty-five. We were received in the grand drawing-room, as large as a fair-sized church, and presented to the ladies. We found them pretty, intelligent and vivacious, and it is no exaggeration to say that they compare quite favorably with the American sisters. The ladies were attired in graceful native costumes. The dress consisted of a waist, such as is worn by Europeans, with a long scarf of embroidered silk, or crape, called a saree, wrapped several times around the waist and falling in broad folds about the limbs in lieu of a skirt. One end of the saree was brought over the head and dropped gracefully in front, constituting a very effective head dress. Their jewels were magnificent. No crowned head of Europe possesses their earrings, and such an array of diamonds, pearls, sapphires, and emeralds can scarcely be imagined. One of the guests wore eight strings of pearls, which far exceeded the celebrated necklace of Queen Marguerite of Italy. The state costumes of the men is white, but on ordinary occasions they appear attired in the conventional evening dress. One peculiarity of their costume is not, however, to be met in a London drawing-room. They never uncover their heads, and a high, conical Persian hat, or at meals, a skull cap, always completes their dress.

On the occasion I am describing an orchestra played selections from Italian operas, and, after conversing awhile upon topics of universal interest, our host made a sign to the servants, who brought in baskets filled with large bouquets of Eastern flowers. Each lady selected one, sprinkled it with rose-water from a tall silver vase, presented it to the gentleman who was to escort her to dinner, and then, taking his arm, she led the way to where a table was spread, overlooking the sea.

There were regaled with tea, coffee, cakes, fruits and twenty-two kinds of delicious native sweets, which had been collected in honor of our coming. It was an event not to be forgotten. The waving palms and tropical flowers, the splash of the waves, mingling with the soft strains of music, the beautiful women with their flashing jewels and graceful dress, were typical of the languid, dreamy East, and carried one unconsciously back to the days of Haroun al-Rashid.

When tea was over we were taken for a delightful drive in handsome European turnout, and then to dine at another Parsee house. The ceremony was long and stately, all the dishes were native, but the wines were European, and this dinner, with that exception, was representative of native manners before they had received the European touch. The ladies whom we escorted gave us bouquets, as in the afternoon, and the host hung chaplets of white jasmines about our necks and wrists. The menu cards bore gilded crests, and they gave us bouquets wrapped in gold leaf to carry away. It was a dream of the East, but the perfectly-appointed table, surrounded by intelligent men and graceful women, made it hard to believe that the members of this refined society were the Fire-Worshippers we had been brought up to despise as heathen.

—W. B. Chatfield, in America.

SOME SHORT SAWS.

A Few With Usually Long Teeth That Have Been Newly sharpened.

"I love you for yourself alone," as the blackbird said when he swallowed the gooseberry.

This is the commonplace expression of false friends, who, while they make the utmost use of us, even to abuse, profess the most unbounded admiration of and regard for us.

"That's neither here nor there," as the crow said when an egg fell out of her nest.

How many of us have to lament the spoiled life, the wasted opportunity for good, the lost time, the possibility that was in our life and went out of it, the wreck of this image God made!

"I'll never do that again," as the monkey said when he fell from the top of the mango tree and broke his back in the fall.

There are many people who take credit to themselves for abstention from evil when they are not able to commit it; they tear myself away from the luxury of the life, the old man, "I abstain from the follies of youth," the blind man, "I take no pleasure in riotous living," the deaf man, "I make a point of never listening to the wisperers of scandal."

"Oh, you swindler, you've a stone inside you!" as the wasp said when he ate into the plum.

Few people are more virtuously indignant than the cheat when he finds him; if caught he is indignant.

"This is a thing that ought not to be permitted," as the fox said when he found the henroost empty.

The assumption of virtue is common to mankind, but none assume it so loudly as those who have the least right to it. By such people any shortcoming on the part of others is made a subject of complaint.

"You've got a bee in your bonnet," as the hivo said when the old lady came to look at the honey.

While it is an inherent weakness of human nature to love to find fault with our neighbor, in none is that weakness so fully developed as in those who are most guilty of "little sins." —Quiver.

MAINE'S SOLID STONES.

They Make the Great Buildings and Bridges Half the Country Over.

As long as there are post-offices, custom houses, big bridges and the like to build, the State of Maine is sure to come in for a generous share of the money expended in their construction, for there is enough granite down here to build a bridge to Ireland, and it is of the very finest kind, too. Sections of Maine's geological makeup are distributed all over the country in the form of magnificent public and private edifices, and many a mile of metropolitan pavement, as far west as St. Louis is composed of granite blocks from the quarries of this State. Dix Island, Vinal Haven, Blue Hill, Mt. Easton, Gouddobro and Sullivan, on the western coast, have long been famous for their quarries, and now Hollowell, on the Kennebec, is becoming a great place for the knights of the hammer and drill. Four hundred men are at work there now, and business is booming. Granite is being taken out for the Metropolitan Museum of Art and American Bank building, New York, and for the ten-story Bank of Commerce building in Pittsburgh, Pa., and the contracts for monumental and tomb work now on hand amount to \$100,000. The shaft of the John Wentworth monument in Chicago was quarried and cut at Hollowell and shipped last week. The shaft is fifty-two feet long, weighs sixty-five tons, and was shipped to Chicago on two cars specially built for the purpose. Some very creditable sculpturing is done at Hollowell, a large building being devoted specially to such work. The sculptors are now at work upon eighteen life-sized figures for the Bible building in New York City, and the last of the figures for the Plymouth monument has just been completed. A life-sized plaster bust of the late Governor Bodwell has recently been completed, and is pronounced a work of genuine art. It will be copied in marble, and the reproduction placed on exhibition in the State House this winter. A big granite quarry is a handy thing to have around a town, for the quarrymen get good wages, and there are so many of them that their patronage brings joy to the hearts of the shopkeepers. —Bangor (Me.) Letter.

LEMON PRESERVES.

Take large, firm lemons, not quite ripe, and cut into slices one-quarter of an inch thick, take out the seeds, soak in brine a week. Then soak in clear water for several days till quite free of salt and bitter taste, weigh lemons, and boil till soft enough to pierce with a straw, make a thin syrup, allowing a pound of sugar to one fruit, put lemons in a pot, simmer two hours. Pour out in a bowl, and if the syrup gets thin in several days, put on fire and boil till jelly. Put up when cool in a glass jar with a screw top. The same recipe may be used for oranges.

An ass is the gravest beast, the owl is the gravest bird.

Their Only Medicine Chest.

William W. B. Miller, Deerfield, Mont., writes:

"I have been using BRANDRETT'S PILLS for the last thirteen years, and though I have had nine children, I have never had a doctor in the house, except three times when we had an epidemic of scarlet fever, which we soon banished by a vigorous use of BRANDRETT'S PILLS. I have used them for myself two or three a night for months, for indigestion, dyspepsia, and constipation. In diarrhoea, cramps, wind colic, indigestion, one or two BRANDRETT'S PILLS fixed the children at once. A box of pills is all the medicine chest we require in the house. We use them for rheumatism, colds, catarrh, biliousness, and impure blood. They never have failed to cure all the above complaints in a very few days."

An old bachelor is only the half of a pair of scissors. —Ben Franklin.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had many hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Asthma, Croup, Bronchitis, and all throat and lung affections, also a cure for all Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested his wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellow-men. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human misery, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for its use and a list of names, by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYSE, 112 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.

There lives more faith in honest doubt, Believe me, than in half the creeds. —Tennyson.

Publishers visiting Portland should call and see the new catalogues and immense stock of Type, Presses and Material carried by Palmer & Rey, Corner Alder and Front streets.

The short-cut does not always pay, and unchorew food may bring a night of repentance.

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Do good and throw it into the sea—if the fish does not know it, God does. —Tarkish Saying.

REMOVAL NOTICE.

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If properly treated in time, the most fatal of diseases, such as Consumption, Asthma, Croup, Bronchitis, and all throat and lung affections, can be cured. I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for its use and a list of names, by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYSE, 112 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.

The great art of life is to play for much and stake little. —Johnson.

We notice that Palmer & Rey, the only printers' warehouse, have moved into their elegant three-story building, corner Alder and Front streets, Portland.

He that is much flattered soon learns to flatter himself.

Cure for Cough or Cold. —As soon as there is the slightest uneasiness of the chest, with difficulty of breathing, or indication of cough, take during the day a few "Brown's Bronchial Troches." 25 cts. a box.

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It is a calamity of the direst kind to feel that one's physical energies are falling in the prime of life—to feel more nervous, more dispirited, weaker every day. Yet this is the unhappy lot of hundreds who surround us. A source of renewed strength which science approves, in behalf of which multitudes of the debilitated have and are every day testifying, and which, in countless instances has built up constitutions sapped by weakness and infirmity and long unaided by other means, surely commends itself to all who need a tonic. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is such a medicine—pure, potent, soothing to the nerves, promoter of digestion and a fertilizer of the blood. Dyspepsia and nervousness—the first a cause, the second a consequence of lack of stamina—depart when a course of the bitters is tried. All forms of malaria, indigestion, kidney and bladder trouble, constipation and biliousness are annihilated by this standard family medicine.

The hardest work that an Athlete has to do is to keep himself convinced of his own honesty.

If afflicted with Sore Eyes, use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell it 25c.

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MILLIONS FOR CHARITY.

The Generous Bequests of an Italian Duchess to Various Charities.

The late Duchesse de Galliera was as large-hearted and as open-handed as the late Mme. Boniecault, though perhaps less judicious in the use she made of one of the largest fortunes of this age. The late Duke of Galliera was one of the Continental railway kings and a keen and venturesome speculator. He died leaving personality in France alone amounting to \$55,000,000, and in Italy over \$15,000,000. The Duchess gives the following list of her well-known deeds of generosity: Two thousand dollars a year to the poor of the Seventh Arrondissement; \$4,000 a year to the poor of Paris; for the Brignole Galliera Museum, near the Trocadero, \$1,000,000; for the creation of an orphanage at Meudon, \$2,800,000; for the support of that institution, \$2,000,000; for the building of three working-class lodging-houses in Paris, \$400,000. To decon the port of Genoa she gave \$1,700,000; to the present Pope \$500,000; to build two hospitals, \$1,800,000.

Besides the above donations she gave Genoa the palace called the Palazzo Rosa, with its art furniture and pictures, comprising a collection of ancestral portraits by Rubens and Van Dyck. The gift of a palace and estate at Bologna to the Duc de Montpensier can hardly be called a charity. Her last great benefactions were the founding of two asylums, one for 200 old men and 100 old women, and another for Christian Brothers too old or broken down in health to teach. It was at the opening of the former at which she caught cold, which, degenerating into inflammation of the lungs, killed her. How she disposed of the remnant of her vast fortune is not yet known. The Duchess had an idea she was insulting the poor to ask them to live in meanly-constructed almshouses. She therefore created palaces for them. —Paris Letter.

AN HEROIC COURSE.

The Straits to Which a Young Married Man at Boston Was Put.

I heard the other day an authentic story of something that happened here in Boston, which recalls an incident in one of Balzac's novels and tends to support the old saying about truth and fiction. It seems that the wife of a young man who has a little house of his own somewhere in the outlying districts, but whose salary is very small, fell ill, and was unable to leave her room for several months. The doctor, as often happens, prescribed a great many remedies, tonics and beverages, such as Apollinaris water and champagne, which, being very expensive, were far beyond the young husband's means. What could he do? He was bound that his wife should have everything which the doctor ordered, and his purse having been emptied, he stole out one evening with the parlor clock under his arm and returned with a five-dollar bill. A large easy-chair was expended two days later for a few bottles of port wine, and, to cut the story short, by the time the young woman was able to go down stairs, the rooms on the first floor had been stripped of their contents to pay the doctor and the apothecary.

It must have been a bitter moment for the poor young wife when she first saw what havoc had been wrought in her drawing-room, and I dare say that for a few minutes at least her good man felt that he had been too clever by half. It must be acknowledged, however, that he acted pretty wisely. Health is more important than furniture, and in time the household goods will be replaced. The plan which this enterprising fellow pursued was surely better than helping himself out of his master's cash-box, and perhaps it was preferable to the ordinary course of running in debt; certainly it was more original. —Boston Post.

Separate Municipal Elections.

Without venturing to decide which plan is the more desirable, we think there is no longer any doubt in any impartial mind as to the need of the proposed separation. There can be no improvement in our municipal government, no relief from the extravagant and oftentimes corrupt expenditures which make life in our cities so enormously expensive, until we bring the mass of voters to the comprehension of two points: First, that it is playing into the hands of the men who make their living out of politics to allow National and State political considerations to enter into the choice of municipal officers; secondly, that the burden of taxation is not borne by the rich alone, but largely by the poor. The voters must think when they are deciding who they will vote, not as to what the effect of their ballot will be on a candidate for Governor or President, but upon municipal taxation, schools, police, paving, lighting, street-cleaning, sewerage, docks.—Century.

—During the trial of a case in Kingston, a Kingstonian was examined as a witness. After the lawyers had asked him all the questions they could think of about the case one of them facetiously inquired about the dry goods business. "They are selling off at cost," promptly answered the witness; "yes, for less than cost." Then, as he realized that he was still on the witness stand, he earnestly added: "But I want you to understand I'm not under oath now!" —Kingston Freeman.

—"Hadn't you better wash the dishes before we go?" said a man who was taking a hired girl out for a walk; "your mistress will be sure to see them and scold you." "No, she'll not," replied the girl; "as soon as she learns I am going out for the evening she'll spend all the time looking through my trunk." —Puck.

—Young man (to servant):—"Miss Clara engaged?" "Servant:—"Haven't your sowl, sorr. I hope she is, she's in the parlor now wid a young man's arm twict around her waist."

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should be mild, prompt, and pleasant. As a laxative it leaves little to be desired. I have great confidence in its merits." ALBERT LEONARD, Associate Editor, Journal of Podology, Athens, Ohio.

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An Ample Apology.

Through some unaccountable carelessness in the composing-room of a rural journal, the obituary of one of the town's liveliest citizens crept into the paper one morning. It was not many hours after the issue of the edition that the "lamented" himself crept into the sanctum, and vigorously demanded a correction in the next morning's paper. It appeared as follows:

"Our yesterday's edition contained the announcement of the death of our esteemed fellow-townsmen, Colonel Jones. It is with profound regret that we state that our announcement was premature. The Colonel still lives, and we beg to assure him not only of our distinguished consideration, but that it shall be our constant effort to see that he shall not be annoyed in this manner again until the last dread hour has in very truth arrived. To this end we have ordered the standing obituary of Colonel Jones to be distributed."

—Harper's Magazine.

—Last year there were 5,315 divorces granted in France. The demands were largely made by the wives, and those who had been married from five to ten years were the most numerous in seeking release from matrimonial bonds. There were two divorces granted of couples who had celebrated their golden weddings.

—In England the proper ratio of doctors to population is said to be one to 1,200, but by this rule there are 1,945 too many doctors in London, and while 600 die every year, 1,800 new ones are turned out. Competition is so great that in some parts of the city doctors will see a patient, prescribe and supply medicine for syphilis a visit.

—When a man's coat is threadbare, it is easy to pick a hole in it.

—The existence of life is sometimes measured by the memory of its burdens.

—If you amuse a man he'll be likely to forgive you for cheating him afterward.

—Wealth has made more men covetous than covetousness has made wealthy.

—If we did but half we are able to do we would be surprised at the sum of our diligence.

The Charge of the Ewes.

I was sheep-herding then in North Texas, and had about five hundred ewes and lambs under my care. The day was warm, though the wind was blowing strongly, and when noon approached the flock traveled but slowly toward the place where I wished them to make their midday camp. To urge them on I took my long banian handkerchief and flicked the nearest to me with it as I went behind. As I did so the wind blew it strongly, and it suddenly obscured to me to make a sort of 'fog' of it in order to see if it would frighten them. I took hold of two corners and held it over her head so that it might blow out to its full extent. Now, whether it was due to the glaring color, or the strange attitude, or the snapping of the outer edge of the handkerchief in the wind and I think it was this last—I can not say, but the hindmost ewes suddenly stopped, turned round, eyed me wildly, and then half a dozen made a desperate charge, struck me on the legs, threw me over, and fed precipitately as I felt. It was a reversal of experience too unexpected! I lay a while and looked at things, expecting to see the sun blue at the very least, and then I gathered myself together slowly. In all seriousness I was never so taken aback in all my life, and I was almost prepared for a ewe's biting me.

—Cornhill Magazine.

—An American may suffer from a lack of dollars, but no Calcutta man ever went to the poor-house because of a lack of rupees. —N. Y. Sun.

—It is faith in something and enthusiasm for something that make a life worth looking at.

—The evening of age is largely conditioned upon the nights of youth. —Washington Post.

—Good looks should not be despised. There have been few heroes with turn-up noses and bow legs.

—There is in effect no virtue properly so-called, without victory over ourselves; and that victory costs nothing is worth nothing.

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