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LADY HESTER STANHOPE.

Pitt's Eccentric Niece, Who Lived a Strange Life in Syria.

Among the eccentric personages of history Lady Stanhope, who was born in London in 1766, is remarkable. She was the daughter of the Earl of Stanhope and niece of the great William Pitt.

The death of her mother when she was an infant deprived her of the care a young girl should have, and even her education was sadly neglected. When she was about twenty she went to act as a sort of secretary for her uncle, who was then prime minister. She remained with him till his death in 1806.

In the next few years she displayed such singular qualities of bad temper, selfishness and lack of feeling that all her friends were estranged, and the English government withdrew a pension she had been drawing. In 1810 she shook the dust of England from her feet and started for the east.

She arrived in Syria in 1812 and settled on Mount Lebanon, where she remained the rest of her life, entirely cut off from the companionship of friends or countrymen.

Surrounded by native servants, whom she ruled with capricious impulse, and with indifferent means at her disposal, she had a strange experience.

Occasionally some traveler who knew her would make a stop and call upon her. These persons told curious tales of her household. When tea was served one day the servant brought the teapot to the table holding it by the spout, as the handle was gone. The ceiling of her salon was upheld by beams of wood, and her bed was a mattress laid on planks that were placed on trestles.

Lady Stanhope was a hard mistress and demanded unheard of hours of service. At one time all the free women in her employ left in a body, and her slaves were constantly running away. A strict daily account was kept by a secretary of how every hour of the day of each servant and slave was employed, and Lady Hester kept it for study and reference.

Her time was fully occupied, divided as it was into curious detail. She remained in bed until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and retired at about the same hour the next morning. She began her daily duties at about 6 p. m.

Her first work was to assign to all in the household the routine of

their labors for the next day, for no such eccentric hours were allowed servants. This accomplished, she spent the rest of her time till she retired in looking for trouble in the household, scolding and sometimes swearing, writing letters and talking for hours on any subject upon which she got started.

For a long time after she had gone to bed she kept most of the household awake and busy, her bell calling them for various services. It might be for a lemonade or a bowl of broth or a cup of camomile tea, for which the gardener was called to gather the herb, or she had forgotten some detail of an order for the next day, and whoever was to execute it had to be awakened to hear what she had to say.

She kept in good accord with the pasha, to whom she made presents and rendered services of various sorts, and she often sent gifts to his harem. In this way she had a certain protection.

She died as she lived in Syria, with no friend or companion to comfort her last hours. — Boston Globe.

The Death of a Friend.

The comfort of having a friend may be taken away, but not that of having had one. In some respects I have lost what I have had. In others I still retain what I have lost. It is an ill construction of Providence to reflect only upon my friend's being taken away, without any regard to the benefit of his being once given me. Let us therefore make the best of our friends while we have them. He that has lost a friend has more cause of joy that he once had him than of grief that he is taken away. That which is past we are sure of. It is impossible to make it not to have been. — Seneca.

An Impudent Dog.

One day Beau Nash joined some fine ladies in a grove and asked one of them who was crooked whence she came. She replied, "Straight from London."

"Confound me, madam," said he, "then you must have been warped by the way."

She soon, however, had ample revenge. The following evening he joined her company and, with a sneer and a bow, asked her if she knew her catechism and could tell him the name of Tobit's dog.

"His name, sir, was Nash," replied the lady, "and an impudent dog he was!"

MADE A MISTAKE.

He Was Not an Applicant For That Kind of a Job.

He was altogether a tired looking sort of person from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. His hat was tired; his collar, if indeed he had ever worn one, was so tired that it had retired beyond the vision of man, and even the patches upon his knees looked as if they would welcome a rest. Moreover, he was much in need of a shave and of several other ablutionary processes through which the full and perfect man should occasionally go before presenting himself in polite society. Indeed, the only thing about him that was not tired was his manner, and this was alarmingly fresh as he stopped at the farmhouse door and requested food and a job in tones bordering perilously on those of command.

"You will excuse me, madam, for addressin' a lady without bein' introduced," he began; "but, observin' that there was no men about the place, I—"

"Now, just you move on," retorted the lady of the mansion. "We ain't got no use for no tramps about this place, and I'll just have you to understand right now that whether there's any men about this place now or at any other time— young, middle aged, light, dark or yaller—we ain't wantin' in protection when the time comes that we need it, which fellers of your kind, wanderin' about the country all day tryin' to avoid work and livin' on the fat o' the land earned by the sweat o' some one else's brow, and lookin' for a chance to lay your hands on anything you can carry off without strainin' your muscles, seems to think we ain't got within reach, as I could prove the contrary of in a jerk of a ram's tail if I had a mind to ring that there bell ye see fastened on to the roof, by pullin' this here cord alongside the wash basin, which, Lord knows, I ain't seein' as how I ain't none of these weak sassy women what can't handle the best man that ever lived without no help from nobody or thanks to the neighbors, which on the whole ain't no better'n they should be when it comes down to a straightforward case o' fight or take your medic!"

"Excuse me, madam," interrupted the weary wayfarer, making rapidly for the gate. "I find I've made a mistake. I wanted a job on a farm, not in a gas house."

And he skipped blithely up the

road with little evidence of the weariness which had lent distinction to his carriage in the moments immediately preceding the interview. — Philadelphia Ledger.

Basuto Sayings.

The Basutos are addicted to metaphor, and their metaphorical sayings are numerous and interesting. The following are a few in common use and are given as specimens:

"Men may meet, but mountains never." "Do not prick an enemy with a two pointed needle, as that hurts yourself quite as much as it does him." "A mother is like the cow which sustains the family in time of drought." "One hand washes another." "A sitting hen never gets fat," an answer to our "rolling stone" aphorism. When all is quiet in the land they say, "We are sitting down building houses." Another saying is, "A man who is patient eats fatted beasts, but an impatient man has to content himself with the flesh of a lean goat." — Chambers' Journal.

The Place He Meant.

On the golf links at Westward Ho two players were driving off from the fifteenth hole. One of them was possessed of a quiet pawky kind of humor, while the other was of the hit-'em-high-and-often order.

Not knowing the course, the slasher asked his partner for the line on to the hole and was told to play on to Dr. S.'s house, which was perched on the skyline. The slasher let out, and his ball was skied to an enormous height.

"You mistook me," said the quiet one. "I meant his earthly, not his heavenly habitation." — London Strand.

The Spanish Language.

The Spanish alphabet is perfect save for a single silent letter, h. Each letter has only one sound and pronounced as spelled. The written language therefore is, with a single exception, free from redundant letters. The chief difficulty in the language to English speaking people is the inflection of its verbs. These move from one mood and tense to another by terminal changes, while English verbs move by auxiliaries. In inflection Spanish follows Latin, of which it is a beautiful and richly endowed laughter, so much so that it adopts no word or phrase from other languages.

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