

A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE.

CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS AMONG THE MOORS.

Horrible Mutilations under the Sultan's Eye—The Bastinado—Confiscating the Goods of Offenders.

A letter from Tangier, North Africa, says that no words can describe the cruelty and the barbaric manner in which justice is administered in Morocco. Like Tunis, there are in Morocco some days in each week when the lowest and most humble of the emperor's subjects may step before the despot and demand from him justice against his neighbors or against government officials. These public receptions are the most interesting sight in the capital of Morocco, for they are always attended by the entire court, the army, and crowds of people. The army, several thousand ragged, beggarly fellows with crooked old guns and broken swords, is paraded in three lines in front of the imperial palace, forming a square, open on one side. The sultan, surrounded by a crowd of courtiers, generals, and ministers enters the square, mounted on a magnificent white horse in gorgeous trappings. An attendant bears the celebrated blue umbrella, surmounted with a golden ball, the insignia of the sultan's imperial dignity. The soldiers present arms, the official and imperial servants prostrate themselves, and the ceremony begins. One after the other, the poverty-stricken, humiliated subjects are led before the sultan. He rarely speaks to them. After listening to their stories or to that of the police authorities, he makes his decision, or prescribes a punishment which is instantly administered by a chamberlain.

Until quite recently every subject brought into the presence of the sultan had to bring him a present, according to his means. Sometimes great quantities of gold, jewelry and precious stones are offered. The poor Bedouins from the desert bring him sheep, dates, cheese, large pots of butter and other articles of little value. For the last few years the sultan has not insisted upon these offerings, but it cannot be said that those who come to him empty handed derive much benefit. There is no appeal against the judgment of the sultan. If condemned to death, the delinquent will be executed on the spot. Executioners are always on hand, and the most horrible mutilations are committed in the presence of his majesty and the entire army. Decapitation is still in vogue, but neither guillotine or swords are used. A common butcher's knife or a large dagger does the service slower and more cruelly, but with effect. Robbery and theft are still punished by cutting off the right hand of the criminal. Eyes are torn out, ears, noses and feet cut off, and the poor people mutilated in many still more horrible ways. The detached parts of the body are thrown to the dogs. Confessions are forced from the accused by frightful tortures, by slowly roasting their bodies, pinching, stretching and squeezing, the same as in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. It seems hardly credible that this mutilation can still be practiced in a country only a score of hours distant from the enlightened States of the world, where ambassadors and consuls of all the great nations reside. England wastes thousands of pounds annually in her efforts to suppress the slave trade in Egypt and Nubia, but the carnage committed daily by the sultan of Morocco and his dignitaries is permitted without protest.

The vendetta exists in Morocco. Any murder, committed either intentionally or by accident, will surely be revenged by the relatives of the deceased. Should they not be able to kill the offender the authorities will do it for them. Other accidents which may happen to a Mussulman by the fault of another are revenged in a similar way. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" is still the law with these semi-barbarians. Every traveler is shocked at the number of cripples he encounters in every part of the empire. Mutiny is always punished by decapitation. This is practiced to such an extent that the traveler often sees a dozen human heads stuck on high poles over the gates of cities.

The sultan is not the only one who indulges in such cruelties. All his pashas, governors, and caids follow his example in different provinces and districts. As in Tunis and Persia, the bastinado is the most common punishment for slight offenses. Frequently, however, several hundred strokes are administered upon the soles of the poor offender's feet, causing sometimes instantaneous death and frequently making cripples for life.

The favorite punishment with the sultan and the pashas is the confiscation of the offender's money and goods. If there is a decision to be given between several parties, justice is sold at auction. The party offering the greater bribe will always be the winner. Offences against the government are always punished by taking from the offender everything he possesses, whether found guilty or not. Should any Moorish merchant or functionary acquire considerable wealth, he knows that he can live no longer in security. The sultan, master of his life and property, can take all from him when he least expects it, and he may consider himself fortunate if his head remains upon his shoulders. This is why the whole country appears to the traveler so poverty-stricken and so destitute of all progress and wealth. All the money earned in trade or agriculture is carefully hidden, for the least indication of wealth may bring misery and death upon its possessor. His house may fall in ruins; he will not have it repaired. He may need a new bureau, but he dare not buy it, lest he should be thought wealthy. He will never admit his prosperity. He will complain of bad times or of the government, and speak of famine and misery,

although he may have many thousand gold pieces hidden away. Frequently this does not prevent the government official from discovering the hiding-place of his treasures by fearful tortures. If any Moor wishes to destroy his enemy he denounces him as rich.

The taxes are collected in the same expedient and effective manner in which justice is administered. Whenever the sultan needs money he orders all his pashas to collect the tenth prescribed by the koran, and to send him the amount required within a certain time. These pashas pay themselves for their services by doubling the amount; a policy which is eagerly followed by their subordinates. The poor, instead of paying the sultan his tenth, have to pay another tenth to the pasha, and a third tenth to the zapich, the caids and showsh. This is but one of the many taxes imposed upon the Moors. Every date tree, each pair of oxen, every sheep and horse is taxed. Imports and exports of goods, sales of merchandise, and business transactions of all kinds are taxed to the utmost. Indeed, only a small part of the earnings of the people remain their own.

The interior towns of Morocco are not inhabited by Europeans, nor do consuls reside in them. Nothing remains for the oppressed but revolt. The emperor keeps his regular army and his guards for the purpose of chastising such rebels. As soon as he gets news of a revolt he sends his troops to the town to plunder and destroy. Prisoners are rarely permitted to live. Their heads are cut off on the spot and sent to the emperor, who has them exhibited over the gates of the principal cities of his empire as a warning to others. The emperor's army, however, is weak, and the distances between interior towns are great, so that he is only able to control comparatively small portions of his empire. The Berbers or Kabyles in the mountains and the Bedouins near the southern desert are virtually independent.

Swordsmen of the Deep.

Imagine whales fencing with one another for amusement! It seems as if such a thing could not be; and yet there are whales of a certain species which not only fence with one another, but use their teeth for swords. It is the narwhal that fences. One of the teeth of the male narwhal always grows through the upper lip and stands out like a spear, straight in front of the animal.

It seems as if all the material that should have gone to fill the narwhal's mouth with teeth had gone to the one tooth that grows out through the lip; for sometimes this tooth is eight feet long. The animal itself, from head to tail, is seldom more than sixteen feet in length. Of what use such an enormous tooth is to the narwhal no one knows. Some persons say it is used for spearing fish; others, that its use is to stir up the mud in the bottom of the ocean in order to scare out the fish that may be hiding there; and one man says the tooth is for the purpose of breaking holes in the ice in winter; for the narwhal, like all whales, is obliged to come to the surface at intervals to breathe.

Whatever the tooth is intended to be used for, it is certain that when the narwhal wishes to play it finds another narwhal of a like mind, and away they charge at each other till the long tooth-swords clash together.

They are active as well as frolicsome, and sailors tell of seeing them crossing swords in this way, thrusting and parrying, and rolling and darting about with marvelous agility and grace.

The narwhal is light gray in color, and covered with black spots. For a great many reasons it is valued by the Greenlanders. It furnishes a very fine quality of oil, its flesh is used for food, and its skin, made into a jelly, and called *mattok*, is considered a dainty too choice for ordinary occasions.

This "swordsman of the deep," as I have called him, is a warm-blooded animal, and must not be confounded with the saw-fish or sword-fish, both of which are entirely different from the narwhal.—John R. Coryell, in *St. Nicholas*.

Lepers in India.

Lepers are met with in every stage of misery in India, says a writer in the *Nineteenth Century*. They flock to the borders of the Ganges to end their hopeless lives on "holy ground." Pilgrims, they crowd to Pooree to make prayers and propitiatory offerings to the idol Lokenath; and then, failing of their cure, they continue to haunt the neighborhood, and form fresh centres of vice as vile and detestable as the foul corruption that pollutes and makes havoc of their bodies. Often herded by themselves at night, they are scattered during the day along the roadway and in the bazars begging of the pitiful, and filling with horror the unaccustomed stranger. Special hospital accommodation is provided for them here and there; but in all India, with its millions of people and its over a hundred thousand lepers, the asylums for the leper can be almost counted on one's fingers; they are not a fourth, nay, not a fourteenth part of the leazar houses that England in the middle ages built for these despised "children of St. Lazarus."

How They Fall.

The woman who steps on a banana peel will be down in a heap and up again with a faint little shriek before anybody knows anything about it, while the man will fall the length of the whole block, as usual, waving both hands in the air, kicking with both feet, plunging, throwing hat and umbrella into space, howling at every jump, until, breathless and exhausted, he caroms on an ash barrel at the end of the run and rings down the curtain by rolling downstairs into a barber shop.—Bob Burdette.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

A pretty engagement ring is a large pearl held in place by two tiny diamonds. The new spiral ruchings are of tulle with finish of embroidery silk at the edge.

Necklaces of unset stones of many colors are among the odd things now in fashion.

A little ribbon bow or small natural flower or bud can be worn at the back of the hair.

Waistcoats of valenciennes lace are worn under open bodices of black surah or china crape dresses.

Short jackets made of jersey webbing are in high favor with skirts of half-worn dresses or with accordion skirts.

Loops of beads, the same color as the dress, are worn suspended from the shoulder-straps of evening corsages.

Large cut-glass smelling bottles are now carried in cardinal silk plush bags, neatly fitting the bottle and nearly reaching the top.

One of the new neck ornaments consists of satin or velvet ribbon set in a muslin band to keep it firm. It is secured by a clasp.

Young ladies are now wearing the graceful Grecian sleeves, which are buttoned across the shoulders and conceal the upper part of the arm.

Kilt skirts of flannel are now laid in broad plaits from four to eight inches wide, and have three or four tucks above the hem around the foot.

Beige color and dark laurel green plaited woolen dresses are very fashionably worn this autumn, both in pin checks and large block patterns.

Rich, dark satin grounds show pretty blocks and figures in gay colors. These are manufactured for vests, collars, cuffs and basque waists for combination with plain goods.

Pretty little dresses for children are made in Russian style of veiling, shot silk, cashmere, pin-check surah, or cream white woolen of finest texture, dotted with tiny bouquets of flowers.

A Quebec woman has applied to the corporation of the ancient city for permission to exhibit herself as a curiosity. She weighs 450 pounds, and her limbs are four and a half feet in circumference.

Some of the new repped woollens show broadened figures like velvet, and others have large balls of loosely woven silver or gilt threads arranged on separate breadths so that they will only be used at the foot of the skirt.

A blouse for a little girl is of red adri-nople. It is shirred around the neck and waist. Below the shirring on the waist is a deep flounce of handsome white lace. The sleeves are short, with long loops of narrow red ribbon falling from the top of the shoulder.

A pretty capote for fall has the edge finished with a narrow puff of bright red velvet, a soft scarf of the velvet crosses the top with a knot or pretty ornament on the very top. The ties are the merest bands of velvet, with a small made double bow without ends under the chin.

A pretty suit for early fall is of dark blue albatross and very light blue surah, the latter forming the soft vest and plaited skirt. The princess dress has the waist perfectly fitting, the skirt is slashed in deep tabs, a sash of the surah forms over the hips and in loops, with ends in the back.

The woman of Capri are described as almost invariably handsome and healthy looking. What strikes one most, says a recent writer, is the statuesque gracefulness of the girls in all their movements, however mean their occupation. Capri is a great resort for artists, and several of them have lived with women of the country—their former models—and settled down to a strange, half-wild and half-civilized existence.

Lady Lobbyists in Washington.

The lady lobbyists, says a correspondent, have played important parts in the social life of Washington, especially since the Buchanan administration. Some of them have been the widows of officers of the army or navy; others have been the daughters of Congressmen, and others have drifted here from home localities where they have found themselves the subjects of scandalous comments. A few of them have been beautiful, some had scorched their wings on ill-lighted torches, and they have generally been very clever. It has been their business to so ingratiate themselves with Senators and Representatives as to control their votes on matters which they have been paid to advocate or oppose. Failing in this, they have sometimes managed to secure the absence of opponents of the bills which they have been retained to advocate by ingenious schemes. They looked at every question before Congress from a business standpoint, and their smiles were for those whose votes were doubtful. To them the highest compliments and most honeyed phrases were thrown away, for they knew their vanity. They "meant business." The parlors of some of these dames have been exquisitely furnished with works of art and bric-a-brac donated by admiring diplomats. Every evening they received, and in the winter their blazing wood fires were surrounded by a distinguished circle. Some would treat favored guests to a game of euchre, and as midnight approached there was always an adjournment to the dining-room, where a choice supper was served. A cold duck, a venison pie, broiled oysters, or some one exquisitely cooked dish with salads and cheese, constituted the repast, with iced champagne or Burgundy at blood heat. Who could blame the Congressman for leaving the bad cooking of his hotel or boarding-house, with an absence of all home comforts to walk into the parlor web which the adroit lobbyist has cunningly wove for him?

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