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T. N. CROFTON, Proprietor.

JOB PRINTING



Talking to Himself

A Scotchman, when asked why he always talked to himself, replied:
"In the first place, because I like to talk to an intelligent man."

"In the second place, because I always like to hear an intelligent man talk."
We talk out loud for the Scotchman's reasons. Would rather talk on P-r-i-n-t-i-n-g than on any other subject.

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MOORS AS THEY MEET

Their Quaint Customs and Queer

Mores of Salutation.

DIGNITY AND GRACE ABOUND

Elaborate Social Courtesies That Are

Exchanged in Everyday Life—Em-

braces and Kisses—The Etiquette of

Societies and Yawns.

In contrast to some northern nations

it is hardly too much to say that the

Moors of whatever class is born a gen-

tleman. There is such a grace about

the humblest, such an easy dignity,

that whenever circumstances place

them in positions calling for the exer-

cise of courtesy they very seldom fail

to respond, and thus it comes to pass

that in a democratic nation, in which

every man of ability—cunning perhaps

would be the better word—may rise to

the highest place, even though he start

life as a slave, the self-proclaiming

perversion is practically nonexistent.

This is not, however, to imply that

gaucherie and the pleasant manners

which come from evil dispositions or

stupidity are unknown. Unfortunately

the life led by the average Moor is one

that dwarfs refinement of intellect, as

it does development of mind, and the

vice to which the majority succumb in

early life too often stultify the most

prominent commendations.

It is a pretty sight to see two elderly,

dignified Moors salute. With measured

pace, the eyes of each fixed on those

of the other, they approach with a

slight inclination, holding the right

hands slightly advanced. They press

their finger tips together and begin a

volley of prescribed salutations, greet-

ings and inquiries, hardly pausing to

insert replies and ejaculate "God be

praised!" Then each presses the finger

tips which have been honored by con-

tact with those of his friend against

his lips and then upon his heart as he

raises his head and redoubles his salu-

tations.

To every fellow Moor the greeting

is given, "E-salam alikum" ("Peace

be unto you"), to which the answer is,

"Wa alai kum-salam" ("And to you

be peace"). To the unbeliever the

nearest approach to this permitted is

"Ale salam tak" ("On thy peace"),

which might mean anything. The way

to speed the parting guest is to ex-

claim, "God give thee peace," or, more

curtly, "In peace." To those whose

presence has never been desired it is

usual to exclaim in tones sufficiently

explicit, "Allah haus-ak!" ("God pre-

serves thee!"). On arrival it is custom-

ary to claim to the guest, "Welcome

to thee!" or "Marihabban, ahlan wa sa-

lan" ("Be welcome, at home and at

ease"). Courteous interrogatories fall

thick and fast. "How art thou? Thy

home?"—the nearest approach per-

mitted to inquiry after a man's wife.

"Thy relatives? What news? Is noth-

ing wrong?" To which he replies, if

there is nothing specially to complain

of: "All right, thank God. All well in

prosperity." Or, if he has news to be

given: "God knows. Everything is in

the hand of God."

When a Moor meets a European

accompanied by a Moor, though the

latter be the servant, he not infre-

quently ignores the presence of the

foreigner and offers the salutation to

his companion only, but if he passes

a mixed company of Moors and Jews

or Christians he exclaims, "Peace be

to the people of Islam." If two such

parties meet on the road the phrase is,

"Peace be to those accompanying the

Jews," or "the Nazarenes," and it is

sufficient for one of each party to give

the salutation. The kisses on such oc-

casions are, however, fortunately de-

livered in the air or on the shoulder.

The old custom of falling on one an-

other's neck is still in vogue between

friends long separated. Men and wo-

men restrict their greetings in public

to words, but privately I was some-

what startled by the sudden embrace

of a negro whose freedom my father

had been the means of obtaining when

returning to the country after some

years' absence. The kisses on such oc-

casions are, however, fortunately de-

livered in the air or on the shoulder.

Several little social usages of Moor-

ish life deserve attention, though not

confined to Morocco, such as the ex-

clamation to one who sneezes, "The

forgiveness of God be on me and on

thee!" to which the reply is, "Justice

and praise to God!" If a man who

yawns in public does not use the pre-

scribed formula any one appearing

him may place the back of his hand to

his mouth, uttering a pious sentence,

as the devil is accredited with perform-

ing an unpleasant operation in yawn-

ing mouths. On the other hand, any

one wearing a new garment or look-

ing specially smart or having perform-

ed some clever or meritorious act re-

ceives the compliment, "Bi sahbi'ak"

("In thy strength").

A Moor knows how to enjoy a good

joke to the full, and, seated on the

floor, he bends backward and forward

without restraint in his laughter. Of-

ten the teller of the story will join in

the process too, raising their right

hand far above their heads as they

roll back, they bring them together in

a hearty shake. There never was a

greater way of enjoying a joke in-

vented. The women when happy give

vent to their feelings by a shrill "Yoo

yoo, yoo, yoo, yoo, yoo!"—Full

Moon Canasta.

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Shiplap,	\$21.00	Rustic,	\$27.50
Flooring,	\$27.50	Finishing Lumber,	\$40.00

Free Ferriage to and from Rufus to all Customers.

DISPUTE ON GUNNERY

Lively Controversy Between the Army and Navy.

NAVAL EXPERT'S HOT SHOT.

Commander Sims Claims Navy Gunners Shoot Better Than Coast Defenders—Soldiers Say Navy Shoots by Guesswork at 1,600 Yards and Army Scientifically at 8,000 Yards.

A dispute about the relative merits of army and navy target practice seems probable as a result of the attitude of officers of both branches of the service, says a Washington special dispatch to the New York Times.

Commander Sims, director of target practice for the navy, went to Fort Monroe some time ago to witness the work of the coast defense gunners. He prepared a report for Acting Secretary of the Navy Newberry. Some of the navy people who saw the report were astonished to find Mr. Sims had gone into the question of the coast defense gunnery in a critical way and figuratively had "torn it all to pieces," showing how and where the navy gunners had made better records.

"It's bad enough," said an army officer, "without rubbing it in. The army is the unpopular branch of the service, but it has not been obliged to get out moving pictures to gain recruits."

The statement made by Commander Sims is likely not to remain long unanswered. The army believes the navy has perfected its system and is fully persuaded that our navy is the finest on earth, but is confident it has a far better system of gunnery of its own.

Since the war with Spain the army and navy have made startling advances in gunnery.

It was found that at Santiago about 2 per cent of the steel shells hit their marks. That had been sufficient to do the work, but the officers of the navy thoughtfully went to work to figure out why the efficiency of their fire had not been greater. The men in charge of the gun practice set to work to ascertain what could be done. What has been done seems nothing short of marvelous.

Whereas formerly the biggest guns could be fired about once in five minutes, now they can be fired twice in one minute, and, whereas they formerly

rarely found the target, now the twelve and thirteen inch guns make about 80 per cent of hits. With the other guns practically no misses are made.

But what has the army been doing? "Why, bless you, sir," exclaimed one of the army officers, "the navy shoots at a range of 1,000 yards, and our coast defense guns are fired at a range not far from 1,600 yards. If we had any guns in the army who could not hit the target every time at 1,000 yards we would run them out of the service or put them where they would not have to do with the artillery."

"The navy's system is based on a sort of guesswork. Ours is based on pure scientific principles. At long range the navy's system would prove seriously at fault."

"The navy makes use of what is called the 'spotting system.' An observer aloft with a pair of binoculars watches where the shots strike. If the splash shows that the shot is over the target, the gunners depress the muzzle of the guns. If the splash shows that the shot falls short, the observer orders the muzzle raised.