

CITY OF FILTH AND MISERY NOT INVENTOR OF CAMERA

Bagdad Has Fallen Far From Proud Position She Is Said to Have Occupied in the Past.

Bagdad is glorious only by reflection from the past. The houses of the present town are crude constructions of brick, mostly from ancient ruins and adobe; living is primitive; sanitation is non-existent; the streets or rather lanes, so narrow at times that one bent of burden fills the whole space from blank wall to blank wall, are sewers and rubbish heaps, and the reservoir for water supply is the Tigris river, which divides the city into two parts, just where all the filth of the city's lanes pours into it. In the business sections, the bazaars, the streets are roofed over with rude screens of palm logs covered with mats and reeds as a protection against the burning heat of the summer sun.

The houses are provided with serdabs, a sort of cellar, for household resort during daytime in the long summer months, and when there is no serdab, with mats of thorny shrubs to hang before the windows and keep drenched with water. At that season the whole town sleeps and eats on the roof, and the main middle floor of the house, is practically unused. The heat of summer is intense, and everything is constructed to alleviate its discomfort, consequently one suffers miserably during the brief rainy period from the cold and damp at home and abroad. The death rate is enormous.—Dr. John P. Peters in American Review of Reviews.

Honor That Has Been Given by Many to Distinguished Italian Seems to Be Undeserved.

Because in the year 1569 Giambattista de la Porta, in his book on "natural magic," gives a description of the camera obscura the invention of that instrument is ascribed generally to him. It is claimed for him that he not only used a lens but an inclined mirror as well, thus anticipating by hundreds of years cameras of a reflex order. It is not, however, to be imagined that his instrument was of the portable kind. Rather was it a dark chamber in which an image of the outdoor-scene was thrown upon a whitened wall, through the medium of a small hole on the opposite side. It is not at all unlikely that Porta was simply the recorder of a phenomenon known to others than himself, but not by them reduced to writing. There was one distinguished individual, at all events, who had observed the same optical effect, thus anticipating Porta by some years. It was about the beginning of the sixteenth century that Leonardo da Vinci said, "If you will place yourself in an hermetically closed room facing a building, a landscape, or any other object directly lighted by the sun, and then cut a hole in the shutter, an image of the object outside will be thrown upon any surface facing the hole, and it will be reversed (inverted)."

PROUD OF OLD CLOCK TOWER

Citizens of Halifax Cherish Building Which Was Erected by the Father of Queen Victoria.

Halifax, N. S., the chief British military and naval station in America, is one of the most strongly fortified in the world. The citadel, its chief fortress, pronounced by engineers the most formidable in America, occupies a commanding eminence overlooking the city and harbor. The citadel was begun about 1708, under the supervision of the duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria, and was completed in 1814. At the time the fortification was begun the duke was governor of Nova Scotia and commander in chief of the British forces in America. The citadel was named by him in honor of his father, George III, king of Great Britain.

The duke of Kent left other reminders of his residence in Halifax, among them the quaint old clock tower and clock at the foot of Garrison hill and opposite to the main entrance of Fort George. The clock in the tower, which was brought from England, and is still keeping excellent time, was the gift of George III.

Though quaint and somewhat crude in appearance, and suffering by contrast with the more modern structures in its vicinity, the old tower and clock are still cherished with pride by the citizens of Halifax as a reminder of the residence among them of one who would himself have been king of England had he lived long enough.

Blind Persons Show Skill.

Blind persons, who have been born blind, are, as is well known, exceedingly clever with their fingers, but it is not often one hears of a watchmaker who was born blind, and yet there have been instances of the kind. One famous watchmaker's name was Ripplin, and, although completely blind, he could take to pieces and put together again watches of the most delicate construction with the greatest ease and in quicker time than most watchmakers who have the advantage of good eyesight. On one occasion some of the tiny wheels and screws used in his trade were stolen from him, but the thief was captured with the property on his person, and Ripplin identified it by his delicate sense of touch. Another watch and clockmaker brought up his blind son to his trade, and he proved so skillful that on more than one occasion he detected faults in timepieces which other tradesmen had failed to discover.

The Cost of Life.

"To live is always to be hurt in some way," said a young voice recently. It was the half-resentful, half-wondering voice of one still new to the experiences of existence, and questioning their justice.

The statement is true, and the more fully alive one is, the more keenly are the hurts felt. Every joy brings with it its possible price of suffering. Every love opens a door to sorrow, every gift brings its weight of responsibility; wider knowledge brings the larger drain upon sympathy. The higher one rises in the scale of being, the greater becomes not only the capacity for joy, but also the twin capacity for suffering, but who would choose to be a clod to avoid feeling, a block of marble to escape the pain of a living soul?

ALEUT YOUNGSTERS AT PLAY

Manage to Have Periods of "Fun," Much as Do the Children of More Favored Nations.

The Aleut boys and girls are very like boys and girls in the States, when you get under the furs and dirt and brown skins. They like fun as well as our children. One of them writes: "I was at Atka all last winter. I trapped two blue fox, which I am sending down to have sold for me. I also learned how to use a gun. Yesterday we went out with one of the teachers and I killed an eagle. The marshal gave me 70 cents for killing it because, he said, I was a girl."

Picking melins (large raspberries) is a favorite occupation. The bushes grow on the side of the mountain, and to pick the berries one must either sit down and dig his heels into the bank or lie down and hang on with one hand. In spite of care the picker often takes an involuntary coast down the hill. Bogholes, pitfalls and mountain creeks add to the difficulties of the quest.

Clam digging is another change from home life that is welcomed by the children. They do this when, as one of the small boys said, "the tide is getting downer and downer." Salmon catching and curing is another help to the family larder.—Alice M. Guernsey in World Outlook.

Many-Sided Missionary.

A missionary in India gives some idea of the multiplicity of a missionary's duties. He tells us that he is: a minister of the Gospel, preaching whenever possible. A medical man with a large practice. A schoolmaster with 30 to 40 small schools under his supervision. A magistrate for the settlement of local disputes, the nearest government official being 30 miles away. A road contractor, being responsible for the upkeep and repair of 50 miles of public roads. A tree planter. (This and the last office are means of providing employment for the unemployed.) A builder, attending to the erection of his own churches and hospitals. A meteorologist, reaching and reporting the rainfall at the request of the government. A money-lender and the supervisor of a local agricultural bank. A literary man, translator and reviser. A colporteur. A seller of soap and tea, to raise money for missionary purposes.

Saul of Tarsus.

Saul of Tarsus, known as Paul after his conversion, referring to himself (II Cor. 10:11), says "his bodily presence is weak and his speech contemptible." Ernest Renan, the French writer, after consulting Jewish and Roman writings, says of him: "Paul was small in size, and his personal appearance did not correspond with the greatness of his soul. He was ugly, short, stout and stooping, and his broad shoulders awkwardly sustained a little bald head. His sallow countenance was half hidden in a thick beard; his nose was aquiline, his eyes piercing, and his eyebrows heavy and joined across his forehead. . . . His constitution was not healthy, though at the same time its endurance was proved by the way in which he supported an existence full of fatigues and sufferings."

Roger Bacon's Speculum.

The camera obscura, prototype of the photographic camera of today, is said to have been known to Roger Bacon—who lived in the thirteenth century. By some authorities he is even being credited with its invention, says James Thomson in Photo-gram.

The "speculum" of Roger Bacon, however, may have been simply of the order of the "busy-bodies" commonly employed in some continental European countries, and not unknown in Philadelphia, where in old parts of the city they may be seen in use almost any day.

The "busy-body" is a mirror fastened outside of a window at such an angle as to reflect the view up the street.

"CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT"

How Woman's Shrewdness Served to Save Her Life and Incidentally Enrich Literature.

No one knows who wrote "The Arabian Nights," but it is related that "The Thousand and One Nights" as they are often called, originated in this manner: Schariar was sultan of Persia and having no faith in women, and having curte blanche to marry as many wives as he chose, he had each bride killed the day after he married her. The vizier who did the executive work on this program was filled with horror at the atrocities he was obliged to perform, the more so as he had a beautiful daughter of his own and was in constant terror lest she find favor in the eyes of the sultan. One day his fears were realized and the beautiful Scheherazade was a chosen victim. She did not share her father's apprehension, however, having a scheme of her own for thwarting the sultan's designs. The morning after her marriage she began telling her husband a story, and just as he was about to leave her for his affairs of state, she brought the tale to that fascinating point where we generally find that it is "to be continued." The sultan decided to have her saved till night that he might hear the end of the story. This proceeding was repeated for a thousand and one nights. By that time, Scheherazade had borne him children and the sultan had decided to abandon the cruel practice of killing his wives. "The Thousand and One Nights," translated into French in 1704 by Antoine Galland, was compiled from these fascinating stories.

CHARACTER MUST BE BUILT

Man's Best Qualities Seemingly Can Only Be Brought Out by the Process of Hammering.

The word "character" is true to its derivation. It is a Greek word, which we pronounce harass, which they pronounce charass, but which had the same meaning then as now. They spoke then of a coin in the mint, which was hammered and tortured by the sharp edges of the die, as being stamped upon, indeed, as a poor charassed thing—as bearing a character. Its character came to it because it was beaten, pounded by this tremendous hammer. The more it was beaten the more distinct character it had. I believe all our words of similar import have a similar derivation. Thus, when we say that a man is of this "type" of manhood, or that "type" of manhood, the original meaning is that he has been beaten into that shape by the blows of experience that have passed over him.

Facts About New Plant World.

A new plant world, though one of few forms, is opened up by Dr. Pierce See's botanical investigation of libraries. The spots appearing on the paper of old volumes, or those kept in damp places, are found to be due to various fungi and to represent a certain number of species in different stages of growth, colors and conditions. The microscope shows the ordinary spot to be made up of a dark central nucleus, which is the mycelium or vegetative portion of the plant, surrounded by a lighter zone colored by the secretions of the organism. Plants still living have been transplanted to gelatine, ice-cream, potatoes or other suitable soil, and from the growths so obtained in three to six weeks the various kinds have been identified. As reported to the Paris Academy of Sciences, about 20 different species have been so far isolated. The molds are not all introduced into the books or paper, but in some cases their germs appear to have been present in the paper materials, even in the raw fiber itself.

Petulance and Earnestness.

To look mad and growl is almost as bad as swearing. In fact, if one analyzes the two, he will not find any difference between them. Profanity is only an expression of the state of mind. Of course, there is some difference in the character and form of the expression; but they all mean the same thing. We speak of this because the world notes the mental attitude and regards it the same as profanity, and imputes this fault to the man who wears a growl, remarks Ohio State Journal. And so a religious man who looks mad and growls deprecates his relation as a member of a church and reflects upon the church, too. There is unhappily a good deal of this going on and it is all in violation of Scriptural teaching. We must learn the difference between earnestness and petulance and observe the difference in conduct or we injure the cause we are engaged in. There is no room for ill-temper in a noble enterprise even if that ill-temper does not break out in epithet and wicked language.

Two Points of View.

"Eggs are coming my way and I'm glad of it. I'm a dealer."
"Eggs are coming my way and I'm sorry for it. I'm an actor."



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