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NO 68

IT WAS THE KAISER.

A Snap Shot That Was Taken by a Pair of Persistent American Girls.

I heard a pretty story the other day of two American girls who visited the imperial palace at Potsdam, which is open to visitors only when the emperor and his family are absent. Without knowing this fact the two American ladies made the journey there and were repulsed by the usher at the door. They understood very little German, and he could talk no English; but, with the usual persistency of the American tourist, they tried to induce him to admit them. While they were in the midst of the controversy a gentleman in the uniform of a soldier came rapidly up the steps, and, addressing the ladies in English, asked if he could be of any service to them. They explained that they had come up from Berlin to see the palace, and were very much disappointed because they were not allowed to enter it.

"I think I can let you in," he answered, "and will show you around myself." So he escorted them through the various rooms and corridors and explained everything in a most entertaining manner. Then he followed them out to the portico, where one of them, who had a kodak, asked permission to take his photograph. She hadn't the slightest suspicion who he was, but during the hour they had been together in the palace they had laughed and joked familiarly and felt very well acquainted. The gentlemen gracefully consented, and posed for three snap shots. Then he bade them good morning, hoped they would enjoy their visit to Germany, saluted them in the German way and re-entered the palace.

The young ladies were delighted and related their experience with great gusto when they returned to their boarding house. That afternoon they took their kodak to a photographer to have the films developed, and when the handsome officer their German landlady exclaimed: "Gott in himmell! Der kaiser!"—W. E. Curtis in Chicago Record.

The Love of History.

The love of history seems inseparable from human nature because it seems inseparable from self love. The same principle in this instance carries us forward and backward, to future and to past ages, and runs through mankind from Caesar down to the parish clerk in Pope's "Miscellany." We are fond of preserving, as far as it is in our power, the memory of our own adventures, of those of our own time and of those who preceded it. Rude heaps of stone have been raised, and ruder hymns have been composed, for this purpose by nations which had not yet the use of arts and letters. To go no farther back, the triumphs of Odin were celebrated in runic songs, and the feats of our British ancestors were recorded in those of their bards. The savages of America have the same custom at this day, and long historical ballads of their huntings and their wars are sung at all their festivals.

There is no need of saying how this passion grows among civilized nations in proportion to the means of gratifying it, but let us observe that the same principle of nature directs us as strongly, and more generally as well as more early, to indulge our own curiosity instead of preparing to gratify that of others. The child hearkens with delight to the tales of his nurse. He learns to read, and he devours with eager-ness fabulous legends and novels. In riper years he applies himself to history, or to that which he takes for history, to authorized romance, and even in age the desire of knowing what has happened to other men yields to the desire alone of relating what has happened to ourselves. Thus history, true or false, speaks to our passions always.—New York Ledger.

He Collapsed.

A cat may look at a king, but it is sometimes at the cat's peril—at least so it would seem, judging from this anecdote concerning the late poet laureate of England. Tennyson was once dining at the house of his brother-in-law, Professor Lushington, and among the guests was an inoffensive stranger, who, never having had the honor of being in Mr. Tennyson's company before, every now and then stole a glance of curiosity at the illustrious poet. Suddenly, however, those present were startled by the poet, who had been rather quiet for some time, looking up from the tablecloth and glaring wrathfully round the table. He fixed the young man with his glittering eye and said loud enough to be heard by all present, "You are looking at me, I tell you." The collapse of the young gentleman was, of course, complete and instantaneous.—Christian Work.

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AFGHAN WOMEN.

High Caste Mothers Have a Lonely, Lazy Time of It.

If there are any women in the world who have a right to die of ennui, it is those poor creatures of Afghanistan, the upper class dames. They spend their days doing absolutely nothing, for they disdain sewing, cooking and general household duties. They leave the care of their children to slaves, and they can neither read nor write.

Generally in a rich house there is one chief slave, a sort of housekeeper, rather a grand person, whom it is always wise to conciliate if you intend having many dealings with that establishment. In summer she is always dressed in purest white. In winter velvets and brocades are not beyond her reach. She is generally an elderly person, with considerable influence and a good deal of authority.

Then there is another who is a sort of maid to the lady of the house. She is another person with whom it is not wise to quarrel. She is always very much in evidence. She it is who prepares everything for her mistress's toilet, as also for her master's. It is the wife's special duty and privilege, however, when the things are prepared, to wait upon her husband when he is dressing, to pour the water over his hands and feet during his religious washings, to spread his prayer carpet, to put his favorite dish before him, and so on.

It is difficult to appreciate the exact position of these Afghan women until one sees the way in which mothers are treated by their sons. They may nurse them when they are sick, tend them when they are young, but let the boys grow to be 11 or 13 years old, and you will hear them tell their mother to "chup sho" (shut up); send them to fetch their caps and expect to be addressed by the mothers as "agha gul," or "agha jon," which means "my precious master," "master dear."

Kabul mothers seldom have much affection for their children or their children for them. They do not nurse them as babies, and their babyhood is a particularly long one, for they are very backward. They belong to their nurses more than to their mothers till they are 2½ years old, and after that it is their father who notices them and not their mother.—Philadelphia Press.

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