Select Literature.

THE TURKISH SLAVE;

OR, THE DUMB DWARF OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

A STORY OF THE EASTERN WORLD.

BY LIEUTENANT MURRAY.

CHAPTER I.

Continued.

'It is Brumah's step—I know it well,' said Esmah. 'He comes to conduct me back to the harem; but I must not be seen with you, Alick—what is to be done?'

'No, that were fatal indeed,' said the page, quickly, looking about him.

'Where can you hide?'

'Behind the curtain, or else I will go out at the window; but stay, let me be sure that he comes this way first.'

'If aught should befal thee, Alick, I should never forgive my—'

'It is indeed he.'

'Quick, for your life!'

'I will outwit him."

'Farewell, then. Pray go.'

'Stay,' said the page, quickly impressing a kiss upon her hand; and in another moment he had swung himself lightly from the balcony to the green sward of the seraglio garden beneath, leaving Esmah to be conducted back to the sultan's cage for his birds, as he called his harem, by Brumah, the chief of the eunuchs, an important officer in the household service of a sultan.

CHAPTER II.

THE STAR OF THE HAREM.

In a land where personal beauty alone makes the market value for a woman, and where the main occupation is bathing, eating and administering to the amusement of their Turkish masters, or engaging in sentimental correspondence, by means of flowers, with the forbidden Greeks and Armenians, it is not to be supposed that any degree of intelligence is to be found among the gentle sex, and therefore, when, by any strange chance, such a phenomenon as a woman evincing any tokens of a cultivated mind appeared in Constantinople, it was deemed and treated as something quite remarkable. Unlike her sex in any other part of the world, Nature seems to have made the women of the East, though noted for their sentiment of character, yet mere toys; beautiful, indolent, childlike creatures.

Beautiful as the most beautiful, yet evincing a rare cultivation of mind and refinement of taste, Esmah, daughter of the Grand Sultan Mahomet, by his favorite Circassian wife, was the star of her father's palace. Though but sixteen years of age, she was said to possess more influence over the proud and austere monarch, her father, than his entire court could boast. From her very infancy, he loved and doated upon her with a most unmussulmanlike fondness and she grew up in womanly beauty, and showed signs of remarkable mental ability, the father was more proud of her than any of his most promising sons, even those that were nearest to his succession. In short, Esmah realized Moore's beautiful picture:

'But never yet hath bride or maid,
In Araby's gay gardens smiled,
Whose boasted brightness would not fade
Before Al Hassan's blooming child.'

The austere old Turk would sit by her side, and talk or smoke with a satisfaction that left him in most generous and agreeable good spirits and on such occasions he would, when well satisfied with himself and all the world, when a dreamy, half intoxicated influence pervaded his brain, call in his page Alick, to sing and play to him upon his guitar. The Greek was a natural musician, and his wild, free touch, and the plaintive national lays that he chanted were so thrilling and spirited, and then so soft and winning, that they never tired, but rather won the heart of the listener, more and more. And finally, when the sultan was overcome by the opium, which, perhaps, Alick would sometimes put in his pipe rather largely, then Esmah would steal away from her father's side to that of the young Greek, and thus were many golden hours passed in interchange of thought and feeling between the Princess Esmah and the sultan's humble page. They were young, thoughtless, and almost too happy thus together, in a spot sacred from all intrusion.

'Now tell me one of these stories that I like so well, but which you never repeat in my father's waking hours,' Esmah would say.

'And do you like them so well then?' asked the page tenderly.

'Oh, beyond everything,' she would reply, with an innocent and earnest look.

'I could sit and tell them to thee forever.'

'And I could ever listen.'

'Ah! dear one,' said the page, 'I would that you were humble like myself, and that we had met in my native land, of which I so often tell thee; we would have been so happy there, all the world to each other, and no fear to mar our joy, no rank to separate us. Dost remember the tale I told thee yesterday as we sat here, Esmah?'

'I do indeed, Alick; 'twas of an humble maid, and as humble a lover, who, though poor, almost to very penury, yet loved so dearly, were so true and faithful to each other, that they heeded not the frowns of fortune until a good spirit, whose charge it was to watch over virtue and humble merit, showed to the lover in a dream a mine of gold; awakening from the slumber, the lover sought and found the goodly wealth he dreamed of; but fearing to tempt a heart now so pure and good, when the youth had got enough of the gold for comfortable subsistance, he dreamed again, and was made by the spirit to forget the spot, which ever after he could not find. But his fidelity was rewarded, and they were happy.'

'You remember well, dearest,' said the page. 'Now would I that we were that humble couple, with not enough of riches to make us luxuriant, and yet enough to be beyond the reach of want, and thus in humble life our lot was cast. Could not you be happy thus, Esmah?'

'Happy? yes! beyond comparison blessed, Alick, could that humble lot be shared with thee.'

'Ah, dearest girl, these are but pictures and vain fancies; for fate, hard fate, hath separated us by iron bonds?'

'Not irrevocably, Alick.'

'We can only hope that this is the case, Esmah—but in the face of plain, straight-forward reason, I can read but little hope.'

'Alas, how sad you are to-day,' said the princess, sighing.

'Nay; am I sad? I would not be so before thee, dear one.'

'Then talk no more of this, but tell me again of your native land; and picture it to me as you have always done, for already I feel as though it were my own, so well I love it.'

'It is a pleasant task, Esmah—pleasant to talk of beloved Greece, and sweet to have thee for a listener.'

At such moments he told her, with thrilling eloquence, of his native land, and instilled into her heart self-respect and a love of virtue. He taught her the true dignity of her sex, and how woman was esteemed and cherished in other countries.

He filled her young and impressible mind with the fire and freedom of patriotism, told her a hundred old legends of chivalry and love, that he had learned in boyhood, and taught her to read and compose, qualifications deemed quite superfluous in a Turkish harem. Thus, step by step, and day by day, the young Greek grew in the affections of the young princess, until Esmah loved him above all else in life, giving him her whole heart, and centering all her hopes in him, who was so far below her in position that she could never hope to call him husband. Such an idea was in contradiction to all her experience and knowledge, and she knew that her love, publicly acknowedged, would be a criminal offence in Constantinople.

But we must return to the page, who did so easily get rid of the consquences of their last meeting in the alcove of the balcony. We left Alick just as he had swung himself from the balcony window to the ground, after kissing Esmah's hand. Scarcely had he recovered himself upon his feet, when an officer of the household, on duty near the spot, rudely seized him by the arm, exclaiming at the same time:

'Dog of a Christian, thou hast polluted the princess with a kiss! It was witnessed, and thou must die to expiate the sin. Come before the sultan, that he may adjudge thee to the bowstring at once, as thou richly deservest. The curse of Allah rest upon thy head.'

'Loose thy hold!' said the page, while his dark eye flashed with anger.'

'Never!' replied the Turk, grasping him still more fiercely.

'Wilt unloose me?' repeated the Greek, struggling with his stronger antagonist.

'By the prophet, no!' growled the Turk, as he drew a pistol from his belt and directed it towards Alick's breast.

The page hesitated no longer. He knew but too well the Turkish character; he know that the two most sacred things to a Mahometan were his grave and his harem, and that, however kind the sultan had been to him heretofore, if he should appear before him thus accused, his fate would be inevitable, and he must die; and, indeed, that if the law was strictly enforced, as it regarded both parties, Esmah would be placed in a sack and sunk to the bottom of the Bosphorus before the setting of another sun. We say the page realized all this, but it was by one single comprehensive thought, such as crosses the mind when we are placed in any remarkable and important position. That which occupies so much space and time in description, was like an electric spark in the page's brain. His mind was made up in a moment—the witness of the liberty he had taken must die! And in the next instant the bright stiletto of the page gleamed in the moonbeams, as it was raised to strike. But it was a wily man he had to contend with, one who had been a soldier in the wars, and whose hand and eye were trained for every emergency, and with a blow as quick as his own motion, the Turk dashed the glittering weapon to the ground by a stroke from his pistol, still pressing on with his prisoner to the point where the main guard were posted. A few steps more and they would turn the angle of the palace wall, and be in full sight of the main guard. The corner once passed, and Alick felt that his sacrifice was certain. The thought seemed to give him renewed strength, and he struggled fiercely with his captor, who yet held him in his iron grasp. Suddenly, in the struggle, the Turk uttered a deep moan, that seemed scarcely to escape his lips, turned with his face towards Mecca, the tomb of the prophet, and fell without a cry upon the silken greensward of the seraglio—a corpse!

It was all done so silently, so quickly, so like a miracle, that the page stood like one confounded, neither turning to the right nor the left, but gazing still upon the lifeless form of the Mussulman, until an arm was laid upon his own, and he was drawn away from the spot, almost forcibly, by the dwarf, who, as he coolly wiped the page's dagger, which he had picked up and used so effectually, made a motion for Alick to fly into the palace before the body was discovered, while he leaped away towards a clump of cypresses, one of which he clambered like a monkey, and sat watching the deed he had done from among the thick branches.

Leaving this dumb and singular witness to watch the lifeless body of the Turk, as the limbs stiffened in the night dew, we must ask the reader to go back with us in the thread of our story, that he may become the better acquainted with some of the characters destined to enact an important part in the story that we relate.

It was some eight years before the period at which our story opens, one clear, autumnal day, that the sultan Mahomet and his court visited the royal mosque in state, to commemorate some high occasion in the annals of the church. The sultan's caique, or boat, with its fifty oarsmen, was returning across the harbour after the hour of devotion, the guns of the Turkish fleet had thundered forth the royal salute, the yards had been manned, and the colours hoisted and lowered, in due token of the royal presence, and the boat itself was quietly shooting through the water, when a little female child, leaning observantly from the window of the caique, became startled by the flapping of one of the gay streamers of the boat in her very face, and springing forward it fell into the sea.

At the moment of the accident, the sultan's barge was passing under the quarter of a Trebizond slaver, in the shrouds of which a small lad had placed himself, and from which he was intently watching the gay display upon the waters of the harbour, and the progress of the royal cortege. His quick eye was the first to observe the accident to the child, and scarcely had the caique shot three times its own length by the spot, propelled by the many oars that forced it on, before he dashed into the tide, and was already supporting the child with one hand, while he struck boldly out with the other in pursuit of the royal barge, which was now stationary.

It is not often that your true Turk, your full-blooded Mussulman, is discomposed from his dignity and calm expression of his fatality, even for a moment. Like the North American Indian, he permits nothing to surprise or in the least disconcert him. But the sight of the brave boy, scarcely older than the child that had so nearly perished, thus bravely and stoutly supporting her, drew from the Mahometan boat crew one spontaneous and wild shout of excitement, that made the frail caique tremble in every inch of its make. Even the proud and imperial master, who held the lives of millions at his beck and order, turned aside now, while the feelings of the man predominated, to dash away a tear as the two were taken in over the side.

Scarcely had the brave boy given up his charge on board the sultan's caique into the very arms of the monarch himself, when a boat from the slaver came alongside, and the captain coolly demanded possession of the boy who had performed the noble act.

To be continued.

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St. John, N. B., Oct. 31, 1866.

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MANUFACTURER OF
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January 16, 1867. 1y

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Warranted as good as any on the Island.
150 bbls Prime Herring
☞ Call and judge for yourselves.
JOHN QUIRK.
Charlottetown Feb. 6 1867. tf.

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500 Bbls. Superior Extra FLOUR;
80 Boxes Liverpool SOAP;
140 Bundles White Cotton WARP;
Hhds. and Qtr. Casks Pale BRANDY;
Hhds. Port and Sherry WINE.
OWEN CONNOLLY.
Charlottetown, 27th Feb., 1867.

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The London Quarterly Review, (Conservative.)
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The North British Review, (Free Church.)
AND
Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, (Tory.)

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August 22, 1866. E tf

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Charlottetown, P. E. I
Nov. 25, 1868.

LOST.

IN the beginning of May last, a black pocket book, containing a sum of money, two letters, one adressed to Mr. Thos. Rose, North Lake, East Point; the other to Mrs. Kickham, Souris. Any person leaving the above at this Office will be suitably rewarded.
Charlottetown, June 6th, 1867.

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—AND—
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A STORE and DWELLING on it, capable of holding 15,000 bushels produce, with a double Wharf and site for a Lime Kiln, will be sold or leased on reasonable terms.

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RICHARD J. CLARKE.
Orwell Store, Aug. 10, 1864. E I

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40 boxes RAISINS, 3 Bbls CURRANTS,
26½ do RAISINS, Bags RICE,
60 do FIGS, Bags PEPPER,
Chests superior TEA.
Bbls Crushed SUGAR, Casks Washing SODA,
Hhds and Bbls. P. R. MOLASSES, Hhds and Bbls P. R. SUGAR,
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20 Doz. Am. BROOMS, 20 Doz. Am. BUCKETS.
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A large stock of Spices, Pickles, Fruit, &c., &c., suitable for the season.
The above articles are of the very best description, and will be sold cheap for Cash.
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We have put up and sold this article for over thirty years and can say with confidence and truth of it, which we have never been able to say of any other medicine—never has it failed, in a single instance, to effect a cure, when timely used. Never did we know an instance of dissatisfaction by any one who used it. On the contrary, all are delighted with its operations, and speak in terms of highest commendation of its magical effects and medical virtues. We speak in this matter "what we do know," after thirty years' experience, and pledge our reputation for the fulfilment of what we here declare. In almost every instance where the infant is suffering from pain and exhaustion, relief will be found in fifteen or twenty minutes after the syrup is administered.
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OLD STAND,
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AN elegant preparation for the Toilet and Nursery possessing, in the highest degree, the property of removing Scurf and Dandruff from the Head, and by its invigorating qualities increasing the growth of the Hair.
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Bad Legs, Ulcerous Sores, Bad Breasts, and Old Wounds.

No description of wound, sore or ulcer can resist the healing properties of this excellent Ointment. The worst case readily assume a healthy appearance whenever this medical antis applied; sound flesh springs up from the bottom of the wound, inflammation of the surrounding skin is arrested and a complete and permanent cure quickly follow the use of the ointment.

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These distressing and weakening diseases may with certainty be cured by the sufferers themselves, if they will use Holloway's Ointment, and closely attend to the printed instructions. It should be well rubbed upon the neighboring parts, when all obnoxious matter will be removed. A poultice of bread and water may sometimes be applied at bed time with advantage; the most scrupulous cleanliness must be observed. If those who read this paragraph will bring it under the notice of such of their acquaintances whom it may concern, they will render a service that will never be forgotten, as a cure is certain.

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Nothing has the power of reducing inflammation and subduing pain in these complaints in the same degree as Holloway's cooling Ointment and purifying Pills. When used simultaneously they drive all inflammation and depravities from the system, subdue and remove all enlargement of the joints, and leave the sinews and muscles lax and uncontracted. A cure may always be effected, even under the worst circumstance, if the use of these medicines be persevered in.

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After fomentation with warm water, the utmost relief and speediest cure can be readily obtained in all complaints affecting the skin and joints, by the simultaneous use of the Ointment and Pills. But it must be remembered that nearly all skin diseases indicate the depravity of the blood and derangement of the liver and stomach, consequently, in many cases, time is required to purify the blood, which will be effected by a judicious use of the Pills. The general health will readily be improved, although the eruption may be driven out more freely than before, and which should be promoted; perseverance is necessary.

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On the appearance of any of these maladies the Ointment should be well rubbed at least three times a day upon the neck and upper part of the chest, so as to penetrate to the glands, as salt is forced into meat: this course will at once remove inflammation and ulceration. The worst cases will yield to this treatment by following the printed directions.

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This class of cases may be cured by Holloway's purifying Pills and Ointment, as their double action of purifying the blood and strengthening the system renders them more affable than any other remedy for all complaints of a scrofulo nature. As the blood is impure, liver, stomach and bowels being much deranged, require purifying medicin to bring about a cure.

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200 Cedar Posts.
30 Tons Pictou large COAL.
30 " small "
Terms Cash, or approved Notes of Hand. Time to suit purchasers.
JOHN P. IRVING.
Ch'town, May 1, 1867. P I tf

FLAX SEED!
7s. 6d. per Bushel.

THE SEED imported by the Government of Prince Edward Island last year, is now on Sale at the Royal Agricultural Society's Store, and, to encourage the growth of Flax, is offered at the low price of 7s. 6d. per bushel.
Charlottetown, May 15, 1867.

1867. SPRING 1867.

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Silk Mixtures and Tweeds,
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Also a superior lot of
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Manufactured on the premises under his own immediate supervision. Parties in want of a good substantial article, would do well to give him a call, before purchasing elsewhere.
P. REILLY.
May 14th 1867