TALES OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

The Story of the Founding of Athens.

This is the old tale of how Theseus founded Athens. Many of us know it by heart, many of us have read it and forgotten it, and many of us have never heard of it at all. It is a pretty story and bears re-telling any way.

It happened long before the dawn of authentic history, and there is another story than the one about Theseus that credits the founding to Sais, a native of Egypt, and the naming of it to the goddess Athene. But it was Theseus who made of Athens a city, and a kingdom.

King Aegeus of Attica was Theseus' father and Aethra was his mother. Aethra was the daughter of Pitheus, king of Troezan, and the two met while Aegeus was sojourning in the latter country. When the King of Attica left the Princess he charged her that if a son were born to them, she could take him when he came of age to a certain great stone, and bid him lift it, and if he could do so, he was to have the sandals and the sword which he should find beneath it, and she should immediately send him to Attica.

In due time Aethra did give birth to a son who was both comely and strong in babyhood, and grew to fulfil all the promise of his infancy. When he reached young manhood his mother led him to the stone, and with his great strength he was readily able to lift it. When he discovered the sandals and sword he donned them both and left Troezan for his father's kingdom.

On his way thither he had many and varied adventures. His first encounter was with an enemy who was used to a club for his arms, and was known by the name of Corynetes, or the Club-Bearer. Him Theseus vanquished readily, and carried away the monster's club to use as his own weapon. The Bender of the Pines was the next to fall a victim to Theseus' skill and bravery. Theseus punished him as the giant had been wont to punish others, by bending down two pine trees and fastening him to the tops by his legs and then letting the tree spring back again. Still further on his way he met the monstrous sow, Phaea, who had killed thousands of men and women; her he slew; likewise Sciron, the robber, by throwing him over the cliff into the sea. In short, every day of his journey towards Attica was marked by his punishment of the cruel monsters who had heretofore worked such evil upon mankind.

So he at last reached his father's kingdom, and went to the palace. Now Aegeus had never married Theseus' mother, because he was already wedded to Medea, the witch, and when Theseus came to Attica, the latter, by her miraculous power of divination, immediately became aware of who Theseus was, and keeping the secret, persuaded her husband that he was a traitor and would try to kill him and win the throne for himself. Aegeus, being now an old man, was easily flattered and frightened, and consented that the newcomer should be poisoned at a banquet to which he had bidden him. Theseus, upon taking his place at the board, drew his sword to cut his meat, holding it aloft that his father might see it, and remember it. As soon as the old king's eyes beheld the weapon he gave a loud cry, and throwing away the cup of poison, sprang to embrace and acknowledge his son.

Theseus, though he was feasted and entertained sumptuously in Attica, was not satisfied to remain there inactive for long. Having heard of the bull at Marathon, he went away to fight it, and was successful, returning with it alive, and leading it in triumph through the streets of the city to the temple of the Delphinian Apollo, where it was sacrificed.

But the chief of Theseus' adventures was yet to come. Years before his arrival in Attica there had been trouble between this kingdom and Crete and in order to appease the anger of Minos, the king of the latter country, and the anger of the gods as well, for the Athenians had been at fault, every nine years a hostage of seven young men was required to be sent to Crete. What happened to them when they reached there had not, up to Theseus' time, been discovered. Certainly they never returned, and sent no word back again. The time had now arrived when the tribute was once more due, and Theseus insisted upon going as one of the seven. His father, the king, tried to dissuade him, but the young man was obdurate. Hopeful he was, too, "If, it is true," said he, "that the minotaur destroyed those that have gone previously, this time I shall destroy him, and I shall return in triumph. When you see my ship coming home, watch the sail, if it is a black sail then indeed you will know that I have failed, but if, instead, the sail is white, as I believe it shall be, then be sure that I have been successful and that I bring the hostage back again."

So he departed, after paying Venus to be his guide in the terrible undertaking. And Venus did indeed befriend him. As soon as Ariadne, King Minos' daughter, had seen him, she fell in love with him, and before he and his companions entered the labyrinth, she gave him a thread to guide him. At the end of the labyrinth he met the Minotaur, the terrible monster.

"A mingled form where two strange shapes combined,
And different natures, bull and man were joined."

Theseus slew Minotaur, and then he and his companions and the lovely Ariadene left Crete and sailed away towards home.

On the return journey a terrible storm overtook them, carrying them a long way out of heir path; the ship was months at sea and it was a time of great suffering for Ariadne, for she was about to bear Theseus a child. One night, when the seas were rolling high, and every wave washed the decks of the ship, Ariadne begged to be put ashore. They were a little way off from the Isle of Cyprus, and Theseus took her in a small boat to land, and giving her into the care of some women, returned to the ship to help his sailors. But the storm grew in violence, the ship was carried miles from shore, and far out to sea. Ariadne left alone, was comfortless. She pined slowly away, in spite of the kind letters that the women wrote to her, pretending that they came from her husband. And when her baby was born she died, and the child never lived at all. Later, when Theseus returned for her, and found only the small newly-dug grave, he was broken-hearted with grief. He had met with another terrible blow when he had arrived at Attica, for he had forgotten to put the white sail in place of the black one, and his father, believing the token, had fallen dead of grief.

When Theseus took up the reins of government in Attica, he instituted several great reforms. In the first place he gathered all the inhabitants together and made them citizens of one city, he changed the monarchy to a commonwealth, and acted himself merely as general of its army and guardian of its laws. He divided the people into three classes, the nobles, the farmers and the artizans. To the former he assigned the highest offices of the state, while keeping them on the same equality as the other citizens. In short, as Aristotle tells us, he was the first king to establish a democracy.

BRIDGE-WHIST VERSION OF "COME HOME WITH ME NOW."

Special Cartoon by J. M. Glackeas, the Famous Eastern Artist.

"Mother, dear mother, come home with us now,
The clock in the steeple strikes one;
You said you were coming right home from the game
As soon as you'd lost all your mun."

THE SPINNING OF YARN

Amongst some primitive people today fibres are twisted together merely by the action of the index fingers and the thumbs and then plaited to form a cloth, or used as bow-strings or fishing tackle by again twisting the yarn produced into several plies. When a knowledge of the length, combined with strength, that short fibres could be made to assume when thus united together became known to man he probably used such naturally provided means to spin his yarn. When and how the spindle came we have no means of ascertaining; it may have developed from something cruder still—a twirling stone for example; but if it jumped into existence at once, it might be considered perhaps the greatest forward bound in the whole realm of spinning invention. We have intimate knowledge of its use a long while before authentic history began. It is found amongst the remains of neolithic man and the lake dwellers of Switzerland. It was handed down to Egypt, for it is found in the tombs at Thebes, also amongst the ruins of Babylon, and in the Inca groves of Lima. Simple in construction and decidedly effective in use, the spindle in its primitive form has descended from remote pre-historic times to the present day, and is found in actual practical use amongst the various tribes in Africa, the Mongols, in the Far East, throughout our Indian Empire, in Persia, and over the European continent. The spindle is usually composed of two parts—the actual spindle itself and the whirl, or whorl, which adds to its momentum. The former is of wood, commonly notched at the top to receive the end of the spun yarn. The latter is of wood, stone, bone, clay or other convenient substance having sufficient weight to maintain the desired momentum. The word "whirl" is sufficiently expressive. "Whorl," simply another form of "whirl," is derived from the Old English word "Whorvil," meaning the whirl of the spindle and from this the botanical name is derived. When the spindle was afterwarsd fixed in bearings and driven by a band, a sheave or small grooved pulley was fastened about where the whorl was originally placed. This has since received the name of "wharve;" perhaps from the association of sound, or it may come from an older Anglo-Saxon derivation. The word "wharve," although always used to designate this grooved pulley in modern spinning-frames, does not appear in this sense as a dictionary word. The spindle with the whirl, or whorl, attached is given rotation by briskly rolling it with the palm of the hand against the thigh, a practice universal in Southern Italy, or, more generally, by spinning it between the thumb and index finger. The fibres are then evenly drawn from the distaff and twisted into yarn by the revolving and descending spindle, which, when it reaches the ground, may still continue to perform its function. When at rest the spun yarn is wound on the spindle, the last spun portion inserted in the notch, and the operation continued. It requires very accurate and precise manipulation to determine the diminution in feed to suit the diminishing speed of the spindle and only by early training can this be accomplished. tI is generally believed that the art of spinning is one that is only suited to the sensitive touch of the female hand. In the reign of Frederick the Great all male farmhands in Silesia were required to learn spinning, so that they might utilize the otherwise unprofitable dark winter evenings, and at this they became very adept.—Engineering.

INTERESTING STORY FROM OLD HISTORY OF FRANCE

For ten years after Charles VI. lost his reason, that is from 1392 to 1402, the King's uncles, the Dukes of Burgundy and Berry exercised control over the kingdom. They appear to have managed affairs with considerable judgment, although nothing could prevent the moral debasement of society, which Queen Isabel led on its downward career. In the year 1396 an incident occurred, which casts light upon the condition of Europe at this time. Sigismund, King of Hungary, was in great straits because of an invasion threatened by Bajazel I., Sultan of Constantinople, and known as El Derim, or the Lightning, because of the rapidity of his conquests. The Hungarian King appealed to the western sovereigns for assistance, and especially to the King of France. Charles was incapable personally of rendering any aid, but the appeal was gladly listened to by the nobility. The Duke of Burgundy encouraged the idea of a Crusade, and his son, John de Nevers, a youth of eighteen years, was placed at the head of an expedition. The progress of this force across Germany was uproarious. The knights were fervid, bold and loyal to each other, but of discipline they had none. The army entered the Balkan valleys, and months passed without any news of their doings reaching France. Then a few weak, ragged and almost starving men wandered into France, bringing with them a tale of suffering, defeat and imprisonment. The populace refused to believe this story, and the unhappy men were able to save their lives only with difficulty.

On Christmas Day, James de Helley booted and spurred, strede into the presence of the King and the princes, bringing with him a tale of disaster. Nearly the whole army had been slain, he said, and John de Nevers was a captive in the hands of the Sultan. He himself had been permitted by the Sultan to return that he might arrange for the ransom of his master. The sum demanded was very large and could not be raised at the moment so de Helley returned to Constantinople and placed himself at the mercy of Bajazet. This sovereign received him with honor, saying: "Thou art welcome; thou hast loyally kept thy word; I give thee liberty; go when and where thou willest."

When finally the money for the ransom had been raised, the Sultan sent for de Nevers and his comrades. Addressing the young man he said: "John, I know thou art a great lord in thy own country, and the son of a great lord. Thou art young. It may be that thou art abashed and grieved at what has befallen thee in thy first essay in knighthood, and that to retrieve thine honor thou wilt call a great army against me. I might bind thee by an oath not to take arms against me, neither thyself nor thy people. But I will not. When you please, take up arms against me. You will find me ready to meet you. I fear not the Christians. I was born to fight them and to conquer the world." John de Nevers returned to France, and thus ended the last effort of the Western nations to drive the Turk from Europe. This took place in the early part of the year 1397. We know today that if the Turk is driven out of Europe, it will not be by the nations of the West.

All France was at this time scandalized at the relations between Louis of Orleans, brother of the King, and Queen Isabel. Louis was able temporarily to gain control of affairs, but the King, realizing in one of his lucid intervals, how matters stood and how the people were being oppressed by taxation, deprived him of all authority, and revested it in the hands of the Duke of Burgundy. This valiant, imperious and able prince, who founded the famous house of Burgundy, died very shortly after he was restored to power. He was succeeded by John de Nevers.

This rash, hot-headed prince was quick to exhibit his indiscreet ambition. One of his first acts was to cause the assassination of his cousin, the Duke of Orleans, as the latter was returning from the Queen. He boldly avowed his responsibility for the deed and then fled to Flanders. In the following year he returned to Paris, accompanied by a thousand men-at-arms. He demanded an audience with the King, who granted it, and, impressed by the vigorous personality of the duke, signed letters submitted to him granting a full pardon for the murder. Thereupon Isabel fled from the capital, and John, who by this time had won the name of The Fearless, became virtual dictator of France.

The Queen set up a court at the Louvre, having with her the young Dauphin, who, on the demand of the Duchess of Orleans, promised that John the Fearless should be punished for the murder of the Duke. John was at this time in Flanders, and, learning of what was happening, returned to Paris. At the news of his approach, the King, Queen, and all the royal family, fled from the city. A conference ensued, and at its conclusion, the King renewed his pardon, and the Queen proceeded to establish intimate relations with her husband's assassin. But this was more than the nobility would permit quietly. Civil war ensued, and for five years France was in a bloody turmoil.

"VESTS FOR WOMEN"

Simplicity is the keynote of the prevailing styles. Tailored suits stand high in popular favor and where trimming is used it is very simple but effective. A new slogan is in effect for now we have not only "Votes for Women," but we also hear "Vests for Women." Vests are strongly in evidence again, and are considered by women quite a novelty. These vests, or vest effects, are usually carried out in different cloth from that of the gown and are frequently made of satin. The latest material is repp in the new Bulgarian colors. These colors are of a wide variety in dull shades, so arranged as to blend harmoniously, and the effect is highly artistic. It is quite the range in Paris to use the Bulgarian trimming for vest, belt and a touch of it in the hat.

As a recompense for the lack of trimming on suits, the collar and cuffs are frequently of a different material, and when a vest is used, it is made to match.

Serges, diagonals and mannish mixtures are the materials most favored for suits and are the most practical materials for general wear. Velvets, corduroys, and velveteens are used extensively for suits for dressy wear. Particularly favored is broadcloth in combination with velvet, or satin combined with either material.

Corduroy suits for misses are remarkably chic, and one of the striking features is the half belted coat. The half belts in the back proved popular early in the season, but the later style is the half belt in front, which is attached to the side seam. It fastens in front with either a buckle or a button.

The cutaway style is rather extreme for the average woman, but is highly popular for dressy coats. It is cut somewhat longer than the regular length.

In separate coats the low fastenings of a year ago, have been obliged to give way because of the rige for the high Robespierre collars, a modification of which is shown on the coats. These are much more practical for cold weather wear than those made on the low cut lines.

The trim little "Johnny coats" which became so popular last fall disappeared to a certain extent upon the arrival of cold weather, but are sure to be much in evidence upon the arrival of the warm spring days.

EXPRESSES NO. 3 AND 4 ON I. C. R. TAKEN OFF.

On and after Monday, March 3rd, express trains Nos. 3 and 4, between St. John and Moncton, will be discontinued until further notice.

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In this letter you will read of a case in which doctors failed to heal a wound made in operating. All sorts of treatments were tried in vain, until Dr. Chase's Ointment came to the rescue and made a cure.

Mr. G. E. Leslie, brakeman on the C. P. R., and living at Grand Falls, N. B., writes: "I have given Dr. Chase's Ointment a most severe test and do not believe there is any treatment so successful as a healer of the skin. I was operated on for a tumor with the result that a wound was left which refused to heal, in spite of many preparations tried. Dr. Chase's Ointment healed the wound rapidly. So thankful am I for the cure that I want others to know about this wonderful "ointment."

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NA-DRU-CO Tasteless
Preparation of
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helps them to recover quickly from the colds they have caught, and so effectively heals and strengthens throat and lungs that they can better resist future trouble.

Na-Dru-Co Tasteless Preparation of Cod Liver Oil is a splendid tonic and "builder-up" for weak and sickly children. It gives them better appetites, rosier cheeks, steadier nerves and more energy. It is the best combination you can find of Hypophosphites, Malt, Extract of Wild Cherry for Throat and Lungs, and Extract of Norwegian Cod Liver Oil so treated as to make it pleasant to the taste.

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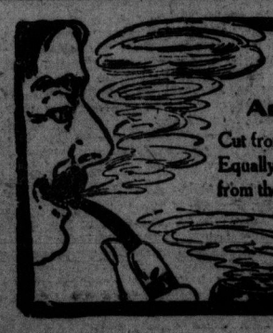

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