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GREETINGS AND GOOD BYES.

BETWEEN a "greeting" and "good bye" there lies a span, short, perhaps of an hour, or reaching from one extreme of life to the other. This morning we bend over the cradle, and putting aside the muslin and lace, murmur our "Tālitha Cunie" to the tiny one nestling there—then at evening, with the dew from the baby mouth still clinging to ours, turn and with bursting heart lay our chaplet of immortelles upon the coffin lid.

The mechanics of each country's greetings and leave-taking vary and differ as greatly as the individuality marking each nation. We find in the ceremonies employed a clue to human nature, history and society, and in each is clearly defined the characteristics of the people employing them. These customs are immutable—for noticing the manners, fashions, culture and education the world over, we notice that time has wrought changes in all—small ones, may be—but still, for all that, changes. The original of the word "greet" is found in the Saxon word "gretan" or "gretten," which literally signifies to "cry out." The old Hebrews greeted each other with "*Schalom lecha*" ("Peace be unto you!") and fancy lingering here, we in imagination go back to the tent beneath the feathery palms, and with hushed breathing hear the greeting benediction of Abraham's angelic messengers. In this particular mode is the deep religious sentiment of the Jews enshrined, and still characteristic is it of them to this day, and no where is found a race so inoffensive as those who in ancient days greeted all with "peace be unto you."

The salutation of the Grecians was "*Chaire*," which, translated, means "be joyful." On looking back into the dim twilight encircling Hellas we can well understand this form, growing out of and corresponding to their mode of living. Existence was to them one luxurious revelry—bubbling, glittering, sparkling as the waves of the Hellespont dancing

in the sunlight and laughing forth "Be joyful." Gorgeous robes, jewels, rare viands and ruby wines, chiselled beauty which even to-day knows no equal. All these were theirs. This greeting in our sense was fatal to them as a nation, for too long were they joyful even when the Conqueror was at their gates. Nearly allied to the Grecians are the Romans. "*Salve*" was the usual word used at meeting, and "*vale*" at parting. The expression of congratulation or enthusiasm was "*viva*." Leaving the days of mystic yore, when Plato and Virgil wrote and Horace and Catullus sang, we come to countries with whose formalities we are more familiar. To-day one having no knowledge of the particular form of government exercised in each country, would have no difficulty in fixing upon Turkey, Poland, and Russia as being under the sway of despotism.

Well might "Freedom shriek when Kosciosko fell," for the servility, galling to bear before, was doubly so now, after this desperate but alas! unsuccessful struggle for liberty, and again the sons and daughters of unhappy Poland must bow the knee and kiss the clothes and feet of their superiors. The Turk, with downcast eyes and hands folded across his breast, makes his salaam. It is worthy of comment that the Arab, wild and lawless, recognizing no distinction between "*meum*" and "*teum*," should be so scrupulously observant of a formality in such either dissimilitude is to what their general habits might suggest. With his left hand upon his breast he says, "*Salom Aleckum*" ("peace be with you"), then kissing both your cheeks, he again repeats his salutation, and before you are aware he is up and galloping off, waving his spear and shaking his horse-tails in mocking courtesy. An examination may reveal that anything but "peace" is with you after his departure, for he rarely omits helping himself.