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Tibet's Curious Customs

Recent despatches from Peking stating that China and Great Britain have entered into an agreement under which Tibet is to be given autonomy under Chinese sovereignty recalls the troubles of that ancient country, so filled with curious customs and holy places, during the early part of the present century, particularly the grief of the Dalai Lama, ruler of the land and religious head of the Buddhist faith when a British expedition under Sir Francis Younghusband penetrated the country from India in 1904 and fought its way to the holy city of Lhasa. The Dalai Lama was so overcome by the fact that the "feet of infidels had trodden the streets of the forbidden city" that he fled the country and for many years was a wanderer in the provinces of northern China. Eventually, however, he returned to Tibet and was again invested by the Chinese with all of its ancient powers.

Tibet is populated by a branch of the Mongolian race, and although the Dalai Lama exercises the ruling authority, the real power is the Chinese Vice-Royal, the country having been under Chinese domination for many years. Some time ago the Chinese Foreign Office offered to grant the Tibetans autonomy, and this proposal is now understood to have the approval of the British Government, which has always insisted that Tibet remain a northern buffer State in Asia and not come under the control of any of the great European powers. The new arrangement is understood to place the Tibetans on the same footing with the other races and countries of the Chinese Republic and will re-

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JOHN WALKFIELD,
Lafave Islands, Lunenburg, Co., N.S.

lieve the Chinese of the task of keeping the country in order. It will also realize the British idea to keep Tibet as a buffer State between India and China.

From almost any point of view Tibet has always been one of the most curious countries on the globe. It is the most extensive elevated country in the world, occupying an area of some 750,000 square miles in Central Asia, bounded on the north by Chinese Turkistan and the barrier of the Kuen-lun, Altin-tag and Nan-Shan Mountains, on the south by Upper Burma, Assam, Bhutan, Nepal and British India, on the west by Ladakh and Butistan (Little Tibet) and on the east by China proper. The elevation of the country varies from 8,000 to 14,000 feet and its climate is principally bleak and cold, although in the south the summers are usually mild and pleasant. It has a population of between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000, the principal city and capital, Lhasa, having some 20,000 souls. The religion of the inhabitants is Buddhism, and they are very devout, the entire country being overrun with monasteries or lamaseries, in some of which dwell as many as 4,000 monks.

For many countries Tibet was a forbidden country, and it is probable that no white man ever entered the city of Lhasa until Sir Frederick Younghusband fought his way into the place in 1904. Thereafter several travellers managed to penetrate into the country, with considerable difficulty and at great danger, and weird tales were brought out of the curious customs of the inhabitants. The world is indebted principally to the explorer Sven Hedin for information concerning Tibet. He made three expeditions into the country, in 1906, 1907 and 1908, and his work during those three

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years ranks among the great achievements of exploration. He obtained enormous results in spite of the efforts of Tibetan, Indian and Chinese officials to prevent him getting into the country.

Another traveller who brought out some information about the country was the Rev. D. F. McGillicuddy, pastor of St. Stephen's Church, of Worcester, Mass., who penetrated into Tibet in 1906. In giving his impressions of the country Dr. McGillicuddy said:

"The population is a mixture of Chinese and Tibetans, the races having intermarried to a great extent, and at the same time they have solved the problem of population. Their solution is by polygamy or polyandry."

"The question of disposing of dead bodies is strange, for their belief is that to bury bodies in the earth is to contaminate them. They therefore slice the flesh of all bodies and feed it to the birds. I witnessed this service for two bodies. The Tibetans skillfully cut away all flesh, and after drying the bones pulverize them and feed them to vultures."

"The temples used for centuries are still standing and are strange looking affairs. In front of many of them are stumps of trees covered with butter in bowls of coins. I went into several of the temples and took pictures of the interiors, showing the altars and the queer offerings and the lights, which are always kept burning."

STORMY WEATHER HARD ON BABY

The stormy, blustery weather which we have during February and March is extremely hard on children. Conditions make it necessary for the mother to keep them in the house. They are often confined to overheated, badly ventilated rooms, and catch colds which rack their whole system. To guard against this a box of Baby's Own Tablets should be kept in the house and an occasional dose given the baby to keep his stomach and bowels working regularly. This will not fail to break up colds and keep the health of the baby in good condition till the brighter days come along. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Outwitting a Yank.

A good story of how he outwitted a Yankee tourist on the summit of Snowdon is told by Mr. A. Alexander, the well-known British athlete, in his book, "A Warfarer's Log."

Having been beaten by Mr. Alexander in a race to the summit, the American, remarking that he would at all events place his feet higher than any of the rest of them, clambered on top of the lofty cairn that marks the extreme summit of the mountain.

"He stood up with some little trepidation," says Mr. Alexander, for it was blowing a stiff breeze. "When he had finished I likewise ascended the cairn and, throwing my feet in the air, performed what is technically known as a hand-balance. "Je-rusalem!" he shouted, "what are you doing?"

"Placing my feet higher than anybody else," I answered.

German Souvenirs of Defeat.

A traveller in the Rhine country has written of his astonishment at the German pictorial postcards now on the market. He found himself in Cologne, and "in the first shop I entered," he says, "I was offered for half a mark many pictures which, had I been a German, I would rather have cut off my right hand than sell to a representative of the conquerors." The German shopkeeper, typical of many others, apparently had no such feeling, for he was handing over the counter pictures illustrating German scenes and people in the hour of defeat. One could buy and send home a picture postcard of a rabble of German soldiers entering the city on their retreat and the natural wonder of the traveller was how any German photographer could have had the heart to sell it as a souvenir of the city. One could buy for half a mark photographs of the British cavalry and infantry entering Cologne, or of the great cathedral serving as a background for the conquering army. This is another of the many stories that have come out of Germany of the commercial spirit taking advantage of defeat to turn a penny.

Dr. Martel's Female Pills

For Women's Ailments

A scientifically prepared remedy of proven worth, recommended by physicians. Sold for nearly half a century in the Patented Tin Hinge Cover Box with Signature "Knickerbocker Remedy Co." across side. Accept no other. At your Druggist or by Mail Direct from Knickerbocker Remedy Co., 71 Front Street East, Toronto, Can., upon receipt of price, \$2.00.

OF THE SAME MIND.

"This picture," said Mr. Gawker.

"Was painted in a garret," replied the proud owner.

"Well! Well!"

"A hundred thousand wouldn't buy it now."

"No!" said Mr. Gawker, eyeing the masterpiece more closely. "And I'm one of the hundred thousand."

Cook's Cotton Root Compound.

A safe, reliable, regulating medicine. Sold in three degrees of strength—No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Free pamphlet. Address: THE COOK MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (Formerly Walker.)

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THE HOUSE OF PLENTY

The Walker House

Reproducing the Talmud.

One of the circumstances due to the war is that it has been found necessary to reproduce the plates for printing the Hebrew Talmud, originally produced in the town of Wilna, Russia. When this city was captured by Germany the electrotypes of the Talmud, it is reported, were used for ammunition. To reset the work in Hebrew would take years with an ordinary outfit.

It was found necessary that the plates should be made by photo-engraving, and this work is now being done in Montreal under the auspices of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.

The Talmud contains 9,000 pages, 8 by 14, and it is divided into 18 volumes. The first volume is finished, and the second is in print now. It is estimated that it will take about two years before the work is completed.

Music-Loving Spiders.

It has been asserted that spiders possess a sensitiveness to musical sounds. Some species appear to respond to the notes of the piano, the harp, the flute, and so on, in a manner suggestive of their ability to recognize these sounds or the harmonic vibrations on which they are based.

Prof. Lecailion, of Paris, who has made a special study of the instincts and the supposed "physicism" of spiders, thinks that the apparent sensitiveness of these insects to music has been misunderstood. It is thought that when musical instruments are played near their webs the spiders simply feel the vibrations without recognizing the musical notes as sounds.

The effect upon them is similar to that of the buzzing of an entrapped fly.

Catarrh Cannot Be Cured

BY LOCAL APPLICATIONS AS THEY CANNOT REACH THE SEAT OF THE DISEASE.

Catarrh is a local disease, greatly influenced by constitutional condition. HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE will cure catarrh. It is taken internally and acts through the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system. HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE is composed of some of the best tonics known, combined with some of the best blood purifiers. The perfect combination of the ingredients in HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE is what produces results in catarrhal conditions.

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THE WONDERFUL NILE.

An Ancient River That Has Many Contrasts.

The Nile is a river of contrasts no less than of harmonies. On one side, mud-banks and cultivation are opposed to precipitous cliffs which rise abruptly from the water's edge a thousand feet into the air. Every geological feature is plainly shown in their perpendicular sides, the regular stratifications being broken here and there by some earthquake "fault" or a rock-hewn tomb. Close in to the rocks the boats, dwarfed into insignificance by the tremendous mass above them, while the blue-clad quarymen, toiling laboriously, load them with their cargoes of dazzling white. Eagles soar about the cliffs and are lost to sight before the top is reached, and along the narrow strip of shingle beach a small boy and his black flock or goats scramble warily in search of pasture. The whole is repeated in the water—a mass of shimmering, glittering light.

In mid-stream bustling steamers and quick-sailing "glasses" steer their course between lazily drifting "tiffin" boats, while others again from Guargeh or Schag, heavily laden with a pyramid of water-pots, lie athwart the stream which bears them slowly to their northern markets.

No less interesting are the mud-banks themselves, crowned with the fresh green of the young Indian corn crop. You will notice how each successive fall of the water cuts the steep sides into terraces, from the face of which slabs of alluvial mud constantly break off like basaltic rock, and are swept away in the stream. Each

Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, Etc.

EARTH'S WEAK CRUST.

Certain Zones Where Volcanoes Are Prominent.

Scientists find that almost all volcanoes are situated in what are assumed to be areas of weakness in the earth's crust, says a writer in Leslie's Weekly. These areas are in the ocean basins, the lands bordering these basins, or mountains which flank or construct outlines of continents. The chief areas of distribution of volcanoes are: (1) The Pacific-Caribbean belt, following the Andes of South America and Mexico, Kamchatka, the Japanese Islands, New Zealand and South Sea Islands, in the Antarctic; (2) the Mediterranean-Caspian region; (3) the Atlantic region, including the volcanoes of Iceland and the Azores; (4) Pacific region, with volcanoes in Polynesia, Hawaiian and other islands.

Why at such points the earth's crust should be especially weak does not seem to have been convincingly explained.

Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to determine the indirect effects of the recent eruption of Mount Klot in Java which wiped out over a score of villages and killed thousands of the natives, but recollection of Karakoto's volcanic outburst in 1883, which within six weeks sprinkled its lava dust over the whole world, has given an interesting suggestion to certain members of the medical profession. During the closing year of the war and influenza epidemic raged in many parts of the world. The manner of its outbreak in different countries indicated that the germs of the disease had been conveyed by the currents of the air.

The theory therefore has been broached that the poison gases with which many sectors of the fighting area was drenched were carried by the wind in every direction, causing the influenza outbreak in Spain, Germany, England, France, South America, Africa, Asia, as well as in the United States and some of the South American countries. That the influenza was a corollary of the war is undoubtedly. Any similar gigantic conflict, it is argued, would be attended with a similar widespread pestilence another reason why every effort should be made to avert wars in future.

fresh terrace as it is formed is brought under cultivation by the industrious farmer, who plants on its narrow area, onions, beans, and other vegetables.

Between Luxor and Karnak is the well-known avenue of sphinxes. Behind it to the east is another, half hidden among the palm trees, leading to a pylon now in ruins. At its base, standing upon a pedestal of granite, is a foot, well sculptured and of colossal proportions. Not much in itself, perhaps, but how imposing must have been the figure of which nothing else now remains but the scattered fragments of stone which are piled high around its base. Simultaneously the enormous columns of the great hall, the lofty obelisks, and the towering masses of the pylons inspire in the beholder a feeling of reverential wonder at the greatness of the minds which thought on such a scale.

The dominant feeling with anyone who explores these ruins is the higness of it all. Big, not only in its conception, but in the overcoming of seemingly insurmountable difficulties of construction. Sixty feet in the air the columns are supporting architraves formed of enormous blocks of stone, each weighing perhaps twenty or thirty tons, but so accurately adjusted to their position as to require no cement or metal ties. How was it done? And what difficulties must have surrounded the transport from Assuan, a hundred and forty miles away of the monolith which stands one hundred and five feet in height! It is wonderful, and I believe I am correct in stating that no solution of this problem of construction is to be found in either hieroglyphic or papyrus.

FOR SALE—50 ACRES SOUTH OF BEAMS-

village, 2 story frame house, cement cellar, frame barn, 36 x 50, mostly wire fence, small orchard, clay brick, 6 acres wheat. Immediate possession. J. D. Biggar, 205 Clyde Block, Hamilton, Ont. (Regent 530).

FOR SALE—64 ACRES OF VALU-

able fruit land, all kinds, 100 yards from Grimsby Beach and Radial Station on Farvia road. Apply to Chas. N. Hutton, Grimsby, Ont.

MISCELLANEOUS

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any quantity, will pay highest prices. Apply to B. Gordon, Cor. Macaulay and Mary Sts., Hamilton, Phone Regent 509.

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KNITTING YARN, ALL WOOL, SAME

quality as we made for Red Cross. Grey only. One dollar thirty per pound. Sample skein thirty cents. Ask for sample of our fine Lumbowool colored yarns. Georgetown Woolen Mills, Georgetown, Ont.

FOR SALE—1 CANT BROS. 36 BAND

saw, No. 116; 1 Cowan 24 x 10 revolving bed planer; 1 Goldie McCulloch power motor, with boring attachment; above machines nearly new; 1 two-spindle shaper, good condition; 1 48 x 14 horizontal boiler; 1 forty-horse Leonard compound engine; 2 pumps, J. Henderson, Brimley, Ont.

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OATMEAL MILL

Capacity 140 barrels. Owner retiring from business. Apply, 39 Front Street East, Toronto.

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MEN WANTED TO WORK AT PORT-

able Saw Mill, also Bush work, and Teamsters. Apply H. G. Cockburn & Son, Guelph, Ont.

MARRIED MAN WANTED, MANAGE

fruit and vegetable farm, also chickens and bees. Apply H. G. Cockburn & Son, Guelph, Ont.

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FIRST CLASS KNITTER, EXPER-

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pound, any kind, any size. No deduction for shrinkage. I pay express from any station in Ontario. Ship collect on delivery for full amount, in crates on boxes. Albert Lewis, 66 Dundas street west, Toronto, Ont.

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light sewing at home, whole or spare time; good pay; work sent any distance; charges paid. Send stamp for particulars. National Manufacturing Company, Montreal.

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"When should one take the mistletoe down?" asked Georgette.

"All depends," answers Tricotine.

"What sort of results are you getting?"

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Templeton's P.A.Z.-MAH Capsules are guaranteed to relieve ASTHMA. Don't suffer another day.

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DO YOUR EARS RING?

HAVE YOU CATARRH?

A buzzing noise in the head is the beginning of chronic Catarrh. If not checked the result is deafness. A simple remedy that many physicians advise is to slowly inhale Catarrhzone a few times each day. The soothing vapor of Catarrhzone cures the Catarrhal condition, and hearing improves at once. Head noises, buzzing ears are cured. For Catarrhal deafness, throat, nose and lung Catarrh, there is probably no remedy so efficient. The large one dollar outfit lasts two months and is guaranteed; small size, 50¢; trial size, 25¢. Sold everywhere by dealers, or The Catarrhzone Co., Kingston, Ont.

Why Hens Cackle.

Hens cackle when they lay for the same reason that the doing of anything which human beings are meant to do gives them pleasure. It is an instinctive action. For the same reason a dog wags his tail when it is pleased. Even humans, when pleased with themselves, want to sing, or whistle or dance, or express their emotions in some way.

Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia

Live to explain thy doctrine by thy life.—Prior.