

THE CAMEL.

The camel is an awkward, ugly, unclean, stupid and ill-tempered animal, and looks like personified misery and discontent. But it is truly "the ship of the desert," and admirably adapted for its use on the boundless ocean of sand from the Nile to the Euphrates. It has needed no repair since the days of Abraham, and could not be improved by any invention in navigation. No horse or donkey would answer the purpose. The camel has the reputation of patient endurance and passive submission, which some, however, deny, or regard as mere stupidity. It carries its heaviest burdens on its single or double hump, which is its natural pack-saddle. Its very name means burden-bearer. It can travel five (some say nine, or even fifteen) days in scorching heat without water, and resort to its inside tank or cistern, which at the sacrifice of its own life has saved the life of many a traveller. It lives on barley, dry beans and chopped straw while in camp, and on the prickly thistles and thorns of the wilderness, which, much to the annoyance of the rider, it snatches from the wayside and leisurely chews as a positive luxury. It supplies its master with milk, fuel, sandals and garments, and, having done its duty, it leaves its bleached skeleton to the arid waste as a landmark to future travellers.

With peculiar gurgling growls or sighs of protest, unlike the sounds of any other animal, the camel goes down on its knees in four distinct motions, till it lies on its belly. Growling, it receives its burden; growling, it gets up by several jerks, first on the hind, then on the front legs, so that the rider is violently jerked forward, and then as violently jerked backward, and must hold fast to the saddle or be thrown down on the sand. Once started, the beast moves with long strides, on its soft, spongy feet, steadily and noiselessly forward, as under a painful sense of duty, but without the least interest in the rider. A primitive wooden frame serves as saddle, and the mattress or pillow on which we sleep at night is thrown over it as a seat. The swinging motion high in the air is disagreeable, and makes us a little sea-sick, but we gradually get used to it. To break the monotony and the fatigue, we change our position, now riding on horseback, now crossing the legs like the Arabs, now sitting on one side and then on the other.—*Dr. Philip Schaff.*

POWER OF A SWEET VOICE.

There is no power of love so hard to get and keep as a kind voice. A kind hand is deaf and dumb. It may be rough in flesh and blood, yet do the work of a soft heart, and do it with a soft touch. But there is no one thing that love so much needs as a sweet voice to tell what it means and feels; and it is hard to get and keep it in the right tone. One must start in youth, and be on the watch night and day, at work and play, to get and keep a voice that shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart. But this is the time when a sharp voice is most apt to be got. You often hear boys and girls say words at play with a quick, sharp tone as if it were the snap of a whip. When one of them gets vexed you will hear a voice that sounds as if it were made up of a snarl, a whine, and a bark. Such a voice often speaks worse than the heart feels. It shows more ill-will in the tone than in the words. It is often in mirth that one gets a voice or a tone that is sharp, and sticks to him through life, and stirs up ill-will and grief, and falls like a drop of gall on the sweet joys at home. Such as these get a sharp home voice for use, and keep their best voice for those they meet elsewhere, just as they would save their best cakes and pies for guests, and all their sour food for their own board. I would say to all boys and girls, "Use your guest voice at home." Watch it day by day as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you in days to come than the best pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is a lark's song to a hearth and home. It is to the heart what light is to the eye. It is a light that sings as well as shines. Train it to sweet tones now and it will keep in tune through life.—*Youth's Comrade.*

EMERSON'S OLD AGE.

Among the inconveniences of age, Mr. Emerson now finds an infirmity of memory which somewhat interferes with his literary work, though it does not wholly impede it, as is shown by this lecture, delivered last March, at the Old South Church in Boston. Characteristic of the old man, his aims and patriotic hopes, it is also one of the finest and noblest pieces of writing he has published. Standing at the twilight of a long life of literary activity, and himself aware that his faculties are no longer to be fully relied upon, he is yet able to concentrate his thoughts upon a lofty subject and utter, with the pregnant homeliness of his habitual style, words of comfort to a nation in a time of depression, if not actual distress. How many literary men are there who would not, in this case, introduce themselves into the discussion, and lament in one way or another the decay of their faculties, the loss of the pleasures of this world? Emerson has no remark to make about himself; he is absorbed in the future of the United States; without a trace of the narrowness or querulousness of an old man, he throws all his energy into the old work he has pursued so long,—that of giving spiritual comfort to his fellow-countrymen. The lofty enthusiasm that has always marked his career burns just as warm now as ever; it seems to burn even more clear, because in this one of the last utterances of the old poet he calls things by their everyday names, rather than by their symbols, and in his eagerness to be explicit, has no leisure for those condensed generalizations which have proved a stumbling-block to many, but to those who relished his style, an addition to their pleasure in his work.—*Scribner for October.*

A LYING KING.

Regulus, the Roman leader, has a world-wide fame for his stern love of truth. Having promised to return to Carthage, where he was a prisoner, if he could not persuade his countrymen to make peace, he kept his word, in spite of the entreaties of family and friends. He went back to a death of torture, and the world honors him as a true hero. Guy de

Dampierre, Count of Flanders, in the thirteenth century, deserves similar honor. Treated badly by his powerful neighbor, Philip the Handsome, of France, who confined him in prison, he kept his word to that untruthful monarch. Philip was anxious to have the Flemings as subjects, and was raising an army to subdue them. But anxious to throw them off their guard, so that their subjugation might be easily achieved, he sent Count Guy to negotiate peace. A promise was secured from Guy that he would return to prison should the negotiation prove unsuccessful.

He returned after failure, saying to friends who begged him to break his word, "I am so old, I am ready to die whensoever it shall please God." He died soon after in prison. The false king, after protesting that he had no thought of war, suddenly sent a large army against the Flemings. It met with a disastrous defeat, a righteous judgment on the king's falsehood. He ought to have learned the worth of truth from the neighbor he had wronged.

NUTMEGS.

Nutmegs grow on trees which look like pear trees, and are generally over twenty feet high. The flowers are very much like the lily of the valley. They are pale yellow and very fragrant. The nutmeg is the seed of the fruit, and mace is the thin covering over this seed. The fruit is about as large as a peach. When ripe, it breaks open and shows the little nut inside. The trees grow on the islands of Asia, and in tropical America. They bear fruit for seventy or eighty years, having ripe fruit upon them at all seasons. A fine tree in Jamaica has over four thousand nutmegs on it yearly. The Dutch used to have all the nutmeg trade, as they owned the Banda Islands, and conquered all the other traders, and destroyed the trees. To keep the price up, they once burned three piles of nutmegs, each of which was as large as a church. Nature did not sympathize with such meanness. The nutmeg pigeon, found in all the Indian Islands, did for the world what the Dutch had determined should not be done, carried these nuts, which are their food, into all the surrounding countries, and trees grew again, and the world has the benefit.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.

Africa has been spoiled by all the races alien to her, and under their stimulating example, by her own sons. Other races have passed through the baptism of slavery, as a stepping-stone to civilization and independence; but none has toiled under the crushing weight of a servitude so protracted and inflicted from so many sources. Millenniums mark the period of the bondage and humiliation of Africa's children. The four quarters of the globe have heard their groans, and been sprinkled and stained with their blood. All that have passed by have felt at liberty to contemn and plunder. The oppressors of this race have been men with religion, and men without religion—Christians, Mohammedans, and Pagans. Nations with the Bible, and nations with the Koran, and nations without Bible or Koran—all have joined in afflicting this continent. And now the last of her oppressors, tearing from her bosom annually half a million of her children, are nations with the Koran. All travellers tell us that when the Arab traders in East Africa are suppressed the work will be done. This will, no doubt, be accomplished before very long. The Viceroy of Egypt is pledged to England to suppress the traffic, and in a given time, to abolish slavery altogether.

ENGLAND'S TASK.

The magnitude of the task undertaken by England in assuming the protectorate of Asia Minor is but faintly outlined in the summary given by the London "Times" of the reforms which will be required in the administration of the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan. Honest and capable Governors—not tyrannical and indolent Pashas; security of tenure of office—not removal by caprice or intrigue; educated and competent Judges—not venal and ignorant occupants of the seats of justice; incorrupt administration of the law—not purchased decisions and incomprehensible rulings on the basis of texts from the Koran; the maintenance of public order—not a capricious mixture of organized license and brutal repression;—these are but a few of the changes which the British protectorate is to effect in that vast and once fertile peninsula which Turkish satraps have made one of the most poverty-stricken and debased portions of the world. Such reforms may be carried out by an army of English officials, backed by 50,000 soldiers; they never will be by Asiatics trained in the school of Turkish misrule. As to their cost, the English income tax rate will show that, if they be ever seriously attempted.

FAT MAN MADE HAPPY.—LOSES 61 LBS.

Prattville, Ala., July 20, 1898.

BOTANIC MEDICINE CO., Buffalo, N.Y.:

Gentlemen.—About three months ago I commenced using your "Anti-Fat," at which time my weight was 219 pounds. By following your directions carefully, I have succeeded in reducing my weight to 158 pounds. This is all very satisfactory and pleasant; but just previous to my commencing the use of your medicine, I had purchased two suits of fine clothes at a high price, and find, to my dismay, that they are entirely useless to me now. When I put one of my coats on, my friends tell me it looks like a coffee sack on a bean-pole, and when I put the pants on,—well description fails. My object in writing is to ascertain whether you have not, in connection with your medicine business, an establishment where your patrons, similarly situated, could exchange these useless garments for others that would fit. I think you ought to have something of the kind, as it would be an inducement for many to use the Anti-Fat, who now object to using it, in consequence of the loss they would sustain in throwing aside valuable garments. Just turn this matter over in your mind. A "Clothing Exchange" is what you want in connection with your Anti-Fat business. Yours truly
GEORGE BOYD,

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

CYPRUS is to be Anglicized. The first shipment to it from Liverpool was 50 barrels of beer?

MORE than one-half the capital required for the establishment of a Protestant paper in France has been subscribed.

THE Czar has stopped the withdrawal of Russian troops from Turkey in consequence of the murder of Christians in the districts evacuated.

THE "Interior" wants the International Sunday school lesson scheme to include at least six lessons especially devoted to missionary instruction.

REV. MR. MACKONCHIE, the English Ritualist, has contributed to the "Nineteenth Century" a proposed act of Parliament for the disestablishment of the English Church.

EDWARD KIMBALL is helping Ohio churches into liberty; the Congregational Church of Mansfield thanks him for helping them roll off nearly the whole of their \$40,000 burden.

SAYS the "Interior" concerning a prayer-meeting that the editor recently attended: "It did its best to be a good prayer-meeting, but there were four preachers in it, and they killed it."

THE American Missionary Association announces that the current receipts will probably meet the current expenses of the year. Eighteen months ago the debt of the association was \$90,000, but it has been reduced to \$40,000.

THE Wesleyan mission to the Friendly Islands in the South Pacific, instead of being a charge to the society, now contributes about \$10,000 a year to its treasury. Freely they have received and now as freely they are giving in return.

THE Vatican, much incensed at the frequent revolutions in South America, has decided to increase the Catholic Propaganda and the number of bishops in the South American States, with a view of bringing religious influence to bear effectively on the people and render them more obedient to the law.

A BIBLE-READING community of eighty souls has been found in the town of Corato, in the Neapolitan province of Italy. It is the outgrowth of a present of a single Bible, in 1860, to an image-maker of the place, who being converted by its perusal, added the work of Bible distribution to his own trade.

THE Catholic Propaganda have it in contemplation to erect three Bishoprics in Bosnia. There are 120,000 Catholics in that province, who are now under the direction of a Vicar Apostolic. In the adjoining Vicariate of Herzegovina, there are 40,000 Catholics. The well-known Croatian Bishop, Dr. Strossmayer, bears the title of Bishop of Bosnia and Sirmium.

SIR PETER COATS, whose liberal gift of a beautiful church to the villagers of Minishant, Ayrshire, was recently recorded, has crowned himself with honor by another noble deed of munificence which deserves to be made as widely known. His son was partner in a firm in the corn-trade which recently failed with liabilities to the amount of £100,000, and were able to pay only a composition of 10s. per £1. Sir Peter, however, has paid the whole with 5 per cent. interest. Such actions are as rare as they are truly great.

A SOMEWHAT startling piece of intelligence comes from Hiogo, Japan, by which it appears that some native enthusiasts contemplate turning the tables on Western nations in missionary matters. A religious society is erecting large buildings in the foreign style, near their temples, to be used for school purposes, where, in addition to the usual Japanese course, English will be taught. The school is intended only for educating priests of the sect, and a select few, when their education is finished, will be sent on a proselytizing mission to Europe and America.

A LONDON railway official writes to "Word and Work": "May I suggest through you columns a way by which old and disused Bibles and Testaments, in Sunday schools and private houses, may be used with good effect? If folded in paper, and thrown from the railway-carriage windows in the neighborhood of pointsmen's cabins, or left at the railway station, addressed to guards' room or porters' room, they will be often read at spare moments, and not seldom be of use, as at present. I can bear testimony to the way in which such gifts are appreciated."

THE earliest historical notice of yellow fever is in Ligon's "History of Barbadoes," where it is said to have broken out early in September, 1647, and before the end of the month "the living were scarcely able to bury the dead." During the next 150 years the disease was several times epidemic in the West Indies, but did not become severe until 1793, when it destroyed no fewer than 6,000 men at Port Royal in a few months. In 1204 it was brought to the south of Spain, and visited Cadiz, Malaga, and Carthage, its greatest force falling upon Gibraltar, where, in four months, 54 officers, 864 soldiers, and 5,028 others died, and only 28 in 14,000 escaped an attack.

THE Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the great missionary organization of the Church of Rome, has issued its report for the last fiscal year. It shows an increase of receipts over the preceding year, mainly in France, of 211,976f. But leaving France out of view, there would be a falling off of 51,052f. Of the countries that increased their contributions Alsace-Lorraine gave an increase of 18,617f.; Germany, of 61,677f.; Belgium, of 31,512f.; Portugal, of 2,683f.; Poland and Russia, of 88f.; Switzerland—which has been suffering confiscations—of 393f.; Central America, of 126f.; and South America of 11,638f. Of those that decreased their contributions, Spain fell off to the amount of 75,182f.; Italy, 32,890f.; North America, 20,052f.; Holland, 17,702f.; Great Britain and Ireland, 15,122f.; Oceania, 6,139f.; Africa, 4,397f.; The Levant, 4,141f.; Asia, 2,068f.; and Northern Europe, 14f. The decrease of contributions in North America has been going on for several years.