

a piece of matter if a dozen ministers came to dinner, and there wasn't a scrap of meat in the house except bacon. Its a queer thing," added Miss Martha, a touch of solemnity creeping into her voice. "For a woman of my age to be taught her duty by a speckled hen. Dumb things see more than we do, sometimes. I can't help thinking that I'll feel like a sort of sister to Balaam for the rest of my natural life." *Hattie Lumms, in Christian Advocate.*

A TURKISH TALE

"A servant of His Majesty Sultan Ahmet, who had been employed for twenty-five years in the palace, begged leave of the Sultan to allow him to retire to his native home, and at the same time solicited a pension to enable him to live. The Sultan asked him if he had not saved any money. The man replied that owing to his having to support a large family he had been unable to do so. Disbelieving the statement, the Sultan gave orders that Hassan should quit the palace in the identical state he had entered it twenty-five years before. Poor Hassan, without a piastre in his pocket, and dressed in the rude costume of his native province, began his weary journey homeward on foot.

In time he reached the suburbs of a town in Asia Minor, and, seeing some boys playing, he sat on the ground and watched their pastime. The boys were playing at State affairs. One was a Sultan, another his Yizier, who had his cabinet of Ministers. The Sultan, who was sitting with worthy dignity on a throne made of branches and stones, beckoned to Hassan to draw near, and asked him where he had come from. Hassan replied that he had come from Stamboul, from the palace of the Sultan.

"That's a lie," said the mock Sultan. "No one ever came from Stamboul dressed in that fashion, much less from the palace; you are from the far interior, and if you do not confess that what I say is true you shall be tried by my Ministers and punished accordingly."

Hassan, partly to participate in their boyish amusement and partly to unburden his aching heart, related his sad fate to his youthful audience. When he had finished, the boy Sultan, Ali by name, asked him if he had received back his twenty-five years. Hassan, not fully grasping what the boy said, replied:

"Nothing! Nothing!"

"That is unjust," continued Ali, "and you shall go back to the Sultan and ask that your twenty-five years be returned to you, so that you may plow and till your ground, and thus make provision for the period of want, old age."

"Hassan was struck by the sound advice the boy had given him, thanked him, and said he would follow it to the letter. The boys then

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in thoughtless mirth separated to return to their homes, never dreaming that the seeds of destiny of one of their number had been sown in play. Hassan, retracing his steps, reappeared in time at the gates of the palace and begged admittance, stating that he had forgotten to communicate something of importance to His Majesty. His request being granted, he humbly solicited that, inasmuch as His Majesty had been dissatisfied with his long service, the twenty-five years he had devoted to him should be returned, so that he might labour and put by something to provide for the inevitable day when he could no longer work. The Sultan answered:

"That is well said and just. As it is not in my power to give you the twenty-five years, the best equivalent I can grant you is the means of sustenance for a period of that duration, should you live so long. But tell me, who advised you to make this request?"

"Hassan then related his adventure with the boys while on his journey home, and His Majesty was so pleased with the judgment and advice of the lad that he sent for him and had him educated. The boy studied medicine, and, distinguishing himself in the profession, ultimately rose to be Hekim Ali Pacha."

BE COURTEOUS.

It has sometimes been said that any one who had good sense and a kind heart does not need any instruction in the art of good breeding; that politeness comes by nature to such a person, just as the accomplishment of swimming comes by nature to all animals, except men and monkeys.

If such be the case, how are we to account for certain habits of discourtesy in too many young people, who seem to have good sense, judging by their conversation, and who, we know, would be highly indignant if accused of not having kind hearts?

These young people have been taught to say: "Thank you," and "If you please," on proper occasions; they would never think of interrupting another speaker or flatly contradicting what some one else has just said; in short, as far as their tongues are concerned, they are as polite as their best friends could desire. But

they seem to forget that the wagging tongue is not the only thing to be considered, in social intercourse.

It is true that it is very important, when one is in company, to know what to say and what to leave unsaid; but it is quite as important to have one's eyes as polite as one's tongue. When eyes and tongue do not, so to speak, work together, it is usually the case that would-be courteous young persons manage to leave a very unpleasant impression, no matter how affable they may have been in their conversation.

For instance: A young girl, seeing a lonely-looking old lady passing the parlour door of the boarding house where they both lived, invited her to come in and have a little chat before going upstairs to her room. So far, so good. But when the old lady, after dropping into the rocking chair that had been placed for her began to prattle without that regard to grammar which had been impressed on her young listeners in the good schools of this generation, the polite (?) girl who had invited her in and placed a chair for her, spoiled the effect of all that had gone before, by exchanging glances with a friend who sat on the sofa by her, accompanying this ill-bred action by a slight elevation of her eyebrows. The old lady saw it of course, and, being sensitive, very soon left the company and went on upstairs.

No one cares to be the object of ridicule, whether this ridicule is expressed by the tongue or the eyes; and those who bear the Golden Rule constantly in mind, would no more think of offending in this way with the mute member, than with the one that makes itself heard.

Most of the young people, who have enjoyed ordinary social and educational advantages, would consider it rather beneath them to use such an expression as "tipping a wink;" let them regard the action with the same disdain, and there will be a great improvement in the manners of many who, at present, would never intentionally say anything rude or disagreeable.—Clara Marshall in "Young Churchman"

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