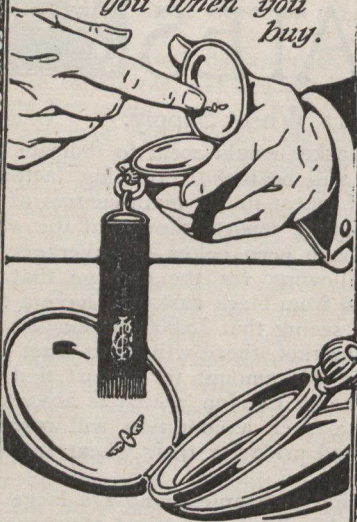


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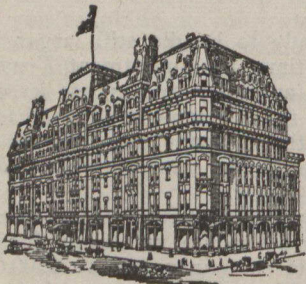
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## ESARHADDON, KING OF ASSYRIA

(Continued from page 16.)

Esarhaddon is surprised to be an animal, and at the same time surprised not to have been aware of it.

He is grazing in a valley, tearing the succulent grass with his teeth, brushing away flies with his long tail, and experiencing a strange, heavy feeling in his udder. Near him a long-legged, dark-gray ass-colt, with a stripe down its back, is frisking and playing. Kicking up its hind legs, the colt gallops up at full speed to Esarhaddon, and poking him under the stomach with its smooth little muzzle, seeks for the teat, and, finding it, quiets down, swallowing evenly. Esarhaddon realizes that he is a she-ass, mother of the colt, and this neither surprises nor grieves him, but rather gladdens him.

He feels a pleasant sensation from the simultaneous movement of life in his offspring and in himself. But suddenly, with a whistling sound, something flies near and strikes him in the side with its sharp point, piercing through his skin into his flesh. Feeling a burning pain, Esarhaddon (who is also the ass) tears the udder from between the colt's teeth, and laying back his ears, gallops to the herd of asses, from which he had strayed. The colt keeps up with him, galloping close to his legs. They have nearly overtaken the herd, which has started off, when suddenly another arrow in full flight strikes the colt's neck. It enters and quivers in the flesh. The colt moans piteously and drops on his knees. Esarhaddon cannot abandon him, and remains standing over him. The colt rises, staggers on its long, thin legs, and again falls.

A dreadful two-legged thing—a man—runs up and cuts the colt's throat.

"This cannot be, it is again a dream," thinks Esarhaddon, and makes a final effort to awake. He cries out, and at the same moment lifts his head out of the font. . . . The old man stands over him, pouring on to his head the last drops from the jug.

"Oh, how terribly I have suffered! and for how long!" said Esarhaddon.

"Long?" replied the old man, "you have only dipped your head under water and lifted it again; see, the water is not yet all out of the jug. Have you now understood?"

Esarhaddon did not reply, but only looked at the old man with terror.

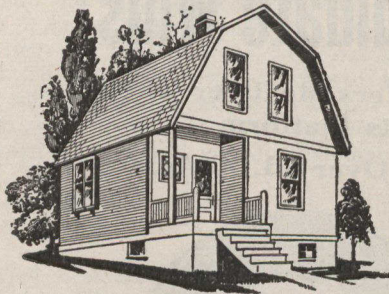
"Have you now understood," continued the old man, "that Lailie is you, and the warriors you put to death were you also? And not the warriors only, but the animals you slew when hunting and ate at your feasts were also you. You thought life dwelt in you alone, but I have drawn aside the veil of the delusion, and have let you see that by doing evil to others you have done it to yourself also. Life is one in them all, and you have in yourself but a portion of this common life. And only in that one part of life that is in you, can you make life better or worse—can you increase or decrease it. You can only improve life in yourself by destroying the barriers that divide your life from that of others, and by considering others as yourself, and loving them. Thereby you increase your own life also. To destroy life, or to alter it, is impossible; for life is the one thing that exists. All else but seems to us to be."

Having said this the old man vanished.

Next morning King Esarhaddon gave order that Lailie and all the prisoners should be set at liberty, and that the executions should cease.

On the third day he called his son Assur-bani-pal, and gave the kingdom over into his hands; and he himself went into the desert to think over what he had learnt. Afterwards he began to go about as a wanderer through the towns and villages, preaching to the people that all life is one, and that men only harm themselves when they wish to do evil to others.

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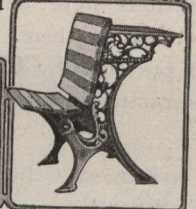
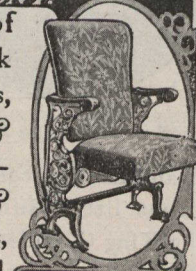
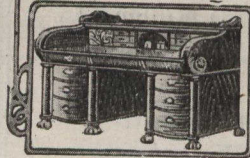
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POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
Mail Service Branch,  
G. C. Anderson, Superintendent.  
Ottawa, 14th September, 1911.

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