

## LITERARY NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE Kirghis are a very singular people, and inhabit the Russian province between Kashgar and Kouldja. Kirghis means "forty girls," according to Dr. Seeland, chief physician of the province. A plateau in the latter is called "the roof of the world," and it was from this the Aryans have descended. Some of the valley-steppes are so rich as to be called "paradises"; the leanest horse on the pasturage becomes fat in a fortnight. The deer is a profitable game, as the Kirghis sell the horns to the Chinese for medical purposes. "Hartshorn" has ever been a medicament. Scorpions and spiders are very common. The spider attacks horses, camels, and bullocks, but it flies from sheep, that eat them with impunity; a sheepskin hung before a tent will drive them away as efficaciously as did Ziska's his enemies.

With the Kirghis the chief food during summer is koumyss, made from fermented mare's milk, which is drunk out of wooden cups; it is a capital nutriment and tonic. Roast horse is the most coveted dish; mutton is common fare, and four pounds of meat are the average zuluization at a meal. In winter, cereals form the chief food. The host, in order to display his courtesy, takes a handful of small roasted tidbits, and plunges them into the guest's mouth. Poor relations are given the bones to pick, with the right to extract their marrow.

A small cheese is prepared from cooked curd allowed to sour. A little is dissolved in water and drunk. It is efficacious against scurvy. The women rather than the men patronize tobacco; it is neither smoked nor chewed; a little is put between the jaw and the gums and then expectorated. Dress consists of a long chemise of wool or cotton, and felt stockings; then cotton or leather pantaloons, a blouse and leather boots. The head is shaven, and over a skull-cap is a sheepskin hat. When travelling in summer, a Kirghis is accompanied with his winter wardrobe. Like all Mussulmans, he wears galoshes over his boots, which are left outside on entering the mosque.

The toilette of women resembles nearly that of men, save the white caps; they wear their hair in curls, and at the end of each curl is fixed a piece of money or jewellery. Houses are simply cages, where the bars are covered with felt. The smoke of the open fire keeps the house warm—but the fire once out, water freezes. The children, during summer, play round the tents, naked, or half-naked, amidst the camels, horses, and dogs. Only the rich have tables and chairs; the others have, for furniture, stuffed sacks, pitchers, and saucepans.

The live stock in winter rely on the herbs to be obtained beneath the snow; horses, oxen, etc., scrape the latter away, like reindeer. The horses are never shod, and can climb mountains like goats. The cows are small, and will only yield their milk in presence of their calves. The Kirghis are great anglers; their hook consists of a curved nail, and a hempen string. Girls wed at fourteen, and men at eighteen. If a man be not rich he remains a bachelor—but he has till 80 years to decide upon matrimony. The marriage ceremony consists in the priest blowing on a cup of water, and handing it round to all to drink.

The new-born baby is placed in a chair-cradle, and tied down; it is rarely removed, and the mother gives it the breast in that position. The fifth day after birth the child is baptized. It is weaned at three years old; children are never beaten.

Women eat only after their husbands or brothers have finished. Divorce is rarely sought; even a Crawford confession of misconduct the husband would regard merely as an accident—of an accident. Racings on horseback are also *à la mode*; and where the girls participate, if they are caught by a gentleman, he is rewarded by a kiss. The rich are bound to support the poor; and on the occasion of fêtes the indigent are allowed to eat as much meat as they can. A man's wealth is estimated by the number of his live stock—and the beggars he feeds.

Capital punishment is unknown. Stealing a horse involves repayment in double its value. Outraged honour can be healed by a fine—as in England, or by a duel—as in France. The Kirghis are not particular about any *syllabus*. They fear evil spirits, but by rubbing a little mutton suet on a holy rock danger is avoided. The dead are sacred, and are buried in a sitting posture. The Kirghis can support hunger, cold, and thirst as bravely as their horses. A man has been known to live twenty days on his own leather boots.

In the case of fevers and small-pox, the patient has a bit of felt put in his mouth, which he spits out; this is burned, and a milk-and-water diet completes the cure. For a black-eye, a cold lemon is the remedy. If the disease be in the lungs or liver, portions of the corresponding organs of an animal are given. Sore eyes, for example, are cured by the roasted eyes of an ox. *Similia similibus curantur*.

They are as fond of news as the ancient Greeks, and as vain of costume or a new friend as a European of the nineteenth century. Suicides are as unknown to the Kirghis as photographers, or as rare as among modern Greeks on account of being refused the Epirus. ZERO.

## THE PICTURES AT THE GARRICK CLUB.

MRS. BRACEGIRDLE.

WE can see in this canvas, which represents her in dark blue velvet, trimmed with dark brown fur, just removing a mask, the beauties that Ashton has recorded, the "dark brown hair and eyebrows, black sparkling eyes, and a fresh bluish complexion." We can understand as we gaze on these pure pearly flesh tints, the tendency she exhibited to flush "in her breast, neck, and face," whenever she exerted herself. "Never," says Cibber, "was any woman in such general favour with the spectators." All who looked upon her loved her. She inspired the best authors to write for her, Rowe and Congreve amongst the number. All the gay sparks of the period sighed for her, yet her private character was unimpeachable.

QUIN.

HE was dull, heavy, monotonous, emphasizing the worst faults of his great predecessor. Yet Quin was long without rivals; he made his own terms with managers; his word was law upon the stage; in private life he was feared, tolerated, caressed. The best houses were open to him in London, Bath, or the counties, and he is no doubt best remembered from his eccentric ways, his epicurean tastes, and his hectoring, quarrelsome tongue. He was a noted duellist, and twice killed his man; while his repartees were often cruel, but generally humorous. Quin was honourably proud of his profession, and every one will admire the sturdy independence of his reply to the nobleman who regretted that Quin was a player. "What would your lordship have me?—a lord?" was a fitting retort to the insolent speech. Quin's elocution must have been highly esteemed, for he was selected by Frederick, Prince of Wales, to instruct the royal children; and when George III. delivered his first speech from the throne, it was with pardonable exultation that Quin exclaimed, "I taught the boy to speak."

MRS. CLIVE.

THE Garrick portrait endorses the contemporary opinion that Mrs. Clive, the Kitty Clive of her day, was not beautiful; but she had a fine person, and her face is lively and expressive. We see before us the "jovial, ugly, witty, sensible actress," who was the universal favourite of the day, particularly in *Nell* in "The Devil to Pay," and similar characters. Her comic talents were deservedly styled exquisite. She was essentially natural, and created a school of realism, so that the best acting in her line has been modelled after her. Her walk in comedy was extensive—chambermaids, hoydens, romps, country girls, viragoes, and superannuated dowds. "No one," says one who had often seen her, "could be grave when Clive was disposed to be gay." Although separated from her husband, a brother of the Mr. Baron Clive, her fair fame was never spotted by the slightest suspicion of calumny. Frank, blunt, eccentric in manner and disposition, she was respected to the last, and left the stage after a long and brilliant career, to survive for many years in a modest villa on the banks of the Thames. She was bitten by the prevailing vice of gambling, and did not always keep her temper at play. No better story is told than that of her at quadrille, when her opponent, a hoary-headed dowager, demanded payment for two black aces. "Two black aces!" cried Kitty Clive, "I'd like to give you two black eyes, you old white cat!"

GARRICK.

AN amusing story is told of the way he practised upon the patience and temper of Gainsborough. He paid sixteen visits to his studio, it is said, and on each occasion had imperceptibly wrought a change in his features; at last the painter, declaring he could not paint a man with such a "Protean phiz," threw down his brush in despair. The extraordinary facial power of Garrick is still further shown in the fact that he sat to Hogarth as Fielding, after the novelist's death. Hogarth wished to paint a posthumous likeness of Fielding, but there was no work extant to which he could refer. Garrick, therefore, dressed in a suit of Fielding's clothes, and cleverly assumed his features, look, and attitude. It was not strange that Johnson, when he learnt that Garrick's face was growing wrinkled, should exclaim, "And so it ought, for whose face has experienced so much wear and tear as his?"

PEG WOFFINGTON.

IN looking at this charming portrait of Woffington, with its lovely face, its dark expressive eyes, and engaging aspect, we can understand the empire she exercised over men's hearts. It has been said she was the handsomest woman that ever appeared on the stage; unfortunately she had a bad voice, "the only impediment to her becoming superlatively excellent." She was an actress of all work, playing all parts, from *Sir Harry Wildair* to *Lady Macbeth*. "She was famous for performing in male attire," says Leigh Hunt, "and her *Sir Harry Wildair*, the character in which she first appeared in London, was so excellent, she represented the gay, dissipated, good-humoured rake with so much ease, elegance, and propriety of deportment, that no male actors could compete with her." A true *artiste*, she could on occasion sacrifice personal feelings to the general interest of the theatre, and "she ever remained," says a contemporary,