

SELLING YOUNG GIRLS.

Female Slavery not a Thing of the Past.—The Trade in Turkey.

The other day a girl about 13 years old was publicly sold in the courtyard of a mosque situated in the heart of Galata, and through which hundreds of persons hourly passed. It has since transpired that two female children are missing from their homes, having probably been kidnapped by dealers in human flesh. A short while back a wretched girl escaped from the harem in which she was confined, and carried her scarred and bleeding shoulders to the nearest police-station, where it was proven that she had been stolen by a Circassian during the refugee panic and traded away for a few pounds to an exceptionally brutal mistress, and the authorities of Salonica quite recently rescued four young negroes from a caïque, just on the point of landing them. These unhappy beings, who were lying in the bottom of the boat, declared they had belonged to a party of ten; that after a year's captivity at the port of the Nile had been bought by the dealers on board a coasting steamer, and crammed, half naked, into a small, stifling cabin, in which they had to be packed so close together that they were almost piled on top of each other. After enduring the horrors of that passage they were smuggled at night into the barque as described, but they could give no information relative to their six companions, who are doubtless now in hopeless bondage.

An English lady of my acquaintance as taken by a black driver to a palace at Stamboul, into which she walked without the slightest difficulty, caddy, with his smattering of French, acting as interpreter through a grating in the door. When she entered the saleroom: a large barely-furnished and very light apartment, the mistress of the establishment conducted her to a divan, and slaves fetched sweets and coffee. No astonishment was betrayed at the intrusion of a Giasour woman on such a scene. A number of white girls, of ages varying from 12 to 18, were then led up to her, one after the other, each in her turn standing motionless before the sofa till signed to yield her position to her next fellow. They are described as for the most part clumsy and heavy, with cowed, sullen faces and muddy, yellow complexions. Their dress consisted of a gauze cap and a loose frock, with short sleeves, and reaching to the ankles, and fastened down with strings. Declaring that her husband desired to present an odalisck to a pasha, the visitor asked to see some prettier maidens, and was told there was none on hand, though a selection would very shortly arrive, when she certainly could be suited.

Two Turkish women were during this time selecting slaves. No sort of consideration was paid to the feelings of the poor girls. Under examination they untied their single garment, according to the requirements of the purchaser, or threw it off entirely if so wished. Their teeth were looked at and, hair let down, their persons punched and pulled about. The buyers, wanting sound, useful articles, tested their strength and searched for blemishes in the same, unconcerned manner as is done at a horse fair. As for the girls, their attitude was invariably that of absolute, uncomplaining submission. They stood with downcast eyes and drooping limbs, simply doing what they were ordered, and never losing for a moment their look of stupid, hopeless indifference.

Farm and Garden.

The Clover Plant.

Dr. Byron D. Halstead presents in the American Agriculturist for September the following important facts in regard to the agricultural value of the clover plant:

The clover plant is a close and deep feeder, sending its fine roots far down into the soil, filling the sub-soil with a network of rootlets. It exposes a large leaf surface, and is thus able to concentrate weak solutions of plant food, and prepare them for the formation of vegetable substance. The clover plant grows throughout the whole season, and is thus able to take up the nitrates as they form. These compounds of nitrogen are produced in large quantities in hot summer months, and, being very soluble, would be washed out by the rains, were it not that the clover plant absorbs it. This is one great advantage which clover has over all the common grains, that finish their growth and are harvested before the time for the most rapid nitrification arrives. It is a well-known fact that clover prepares land for the production of large crops, and this is explained in large part by the long season of its growth, and its deep and close feeding, and the storing up of compounds of nitrogen. The clover plant is largely below ground, so that removing the tops takes away only a part of the vegetable matter that has been accumulated. The roots of clover are large and numerous: when they are turned over in plowing, and decay, they yield a good

supply of plant-food to such crops as feed near the surface, and must grow rapidly for only a few weeks. In this way the clover crop will help the succeeding wheat crop, and has given rise to the saying that "clover seed is the best manure a farmer can use." If the whole crop is turned over, as a green manure, a much larger amount of plant food is put into the soil. This is one of the quickest, cheapest and best methods of increasing the fertility of a piece of land.

Ensilage and Silos.

J. P. Roberts, Professor of Agriculture at Cornell University, has made a practical test of the silo system of storing fodder, and from his condensed article in the Scientific American for September we here give some of his conclusions:

I believe the greatest utility of silos will be found to consist in the means they furnish in preserving forage plants, in a green and palatable state, which may be easily grown in abundance in May and June; but if not then secured, they would become dried up and nearly worthless, or, if dried and housed, the animals appear to have but little relish for them in the hot, dry days of August. The reasons for building silos with small compartments are manifold: a small compartment may be finished and sealed up in a single day, thereby not seriously interfering with the regular work. Each forage plant may be taken when in its best condition. One compartment may be filled early with rye and clover, which is showing a tendency to spoil by lodging, or is full of weeds that it is desirable to eradicate; a second with oats and a second cutting of the former clover field, or a weedy, belated piece of timothy. A piece of fodder corn and aftermath would fill a third compartment later in the season.

If the compartments are small they may be uncovered entirely and fed from the top, and if not all consumed they can be filled up with new material; or, if one or more compartments are entirely emptied, they may be refilled in September, thus securing a two-fold benefit from them. From my experience, I judge that a compartment not entirely emptied in the spring, if disturbed only on the top, would sustain little loss till June if re-sealed, or it might be left open, and daily a little of that exposed to air fed to the horses as cut feed. Our horses thus fed last winter relished it very much.

There are many problems in regard to ensilage that are still unsolved; but, should everything be found favorable to the new method, there are still men who would have no more use for a silo than for a trotting horse. There are men having so little energy and skill that, should you give them the best herd of Shorthorns, they would have little better than scrubs in ten years. Under certain conditions, the new method, I believe, can be adopted with profitable results, but he who rushes thoughtlessly into it will find, I fear, that ensilage is too "Frenchy," unless mixed with a liberal allowance of brains.

THE HUMAN RACE.

Some Things About the Past and Present.

THE DEAD OF CHINA.

In view of the myriads of human beings which have lived in China from time immemorial, scientists say that every ounce of soil must have passed through the bodies of human beings of that empire not only once but hundreds of times. China is a densely populated country, and its records are very, very ancient. If all born were still alive they would cover the country completely and extend miles into the air. It is a suggestive idea that the soil of every populous country must represent the remains of myriads of animated beings who once lived and loved.

TREE-PLANTING.

93,000 acres of land have been planted with trees in Kansas under a new law relating to arboriculture. This is done to supply wood to the future generation, and, if possible to increase the moisture of the atmosphere. This example ought to be followed very extensively, for, since the country was settled the waste of woodlands has been enormous. Immense sections of the earth's surface are barren to-day, because of the removal of the ancient forests, and the droughts and freshets of this country are in a great part due to the same cause. Every farmer and land-owner should regard it as a duty he owes to his country and posterity to plant more trees than he cuts down. Then every municipality and every State, and the nation, should combine to encourage tree-growing, and to check the reckless cutting down of wood.

THE EMPIRE OF THE DEAD.

According to M. Maspero, the soil of

Egypt is thick with mummies. Dig in any part of the country and the preserved corpses of the ancient Egyptians are brought to light. Indeed at some distance from the Nile the soil is rendered unproductive and therefore cannot support population because of these artificially preserved dead bodies. It is after all a wise provision of nature which decrees that the body shall moulder away after death. The preservation of the body is unnatural and if universally done, would in time make the world uninhabitable except by dried corpses. The cremationists have a new lesson taught by the burial of the Egyptian dead, but after all would it not be better to place the bodies at once in the earth, so that the component parts would assimilate naturally with the soil to which it belongs. Cemeteries and graveyards violate the intentions of nature as much as did the burial customs of the Egyptians.

ANTIQUITY OF THE AMERICAN MAN.

How long has man been on this planet? is a question often asked, but the answer is always unsatisfactory. The remains of implements and articles used by man have been found in strata hundreds of thousands of years ago. Ages must have passed since the savage man first emerged from a semi-brute condition. Mr. Wiggins, of Waverly, New Jersey, found on the top of the Alleghany Mountains in Perry County, Pennsylvania, a piece of metaphoric limestone upon which was clearly visible the print of the right foot of a human being. The impression is about an inch deep and shows the five toes and the perfectly formed foot of a man. This piece of stone has been sent to the Smithsonian Institution. The rock is of great antiquity and must have antedated the oldest monuments of Egypt. It certainly is the earliest trace of man in America.

IS THE CONDITION OF THE POOR IMPROVING?

Mr. Mulhall says it is. He has been looking over the list of the income taxpayers, as well as other legal and trade documents, and he has reached the conclusion that while the number of very rich have increased, the number of well-to-do have also increased, while the very poor have been cut down. His figures are exhaustive, and a summary of them cannot be given here, but he declares that the working classes have decreased from 74.6 per cent. of the whole population to 67 per cent. In Scotland the working class has diminished from 89 to 87 per cent., and in Ireland from 95 to 82 per cent. Since 1840 the average wealth per family has increased from \$220 to \$330—that is, it has nearly doubled. Forty years ago Scotland swarmed with beggars, and the average wealth per inhabitant was \$400; it is now \$1,386, while beggary has greatly abated. Even in Ireland there has been an improvement. Three-fourths of its population were bare-footed forty years ago, and the average wealth was \$190 per inhabitant; now shoes are worn and the average wealth \$419. In France wealth has multiplied three-fold in forty years. Since 1840 the large estates have diminished by 10 per cent. No less than 1,536 large estates have been cut up in 425,000 peasant holdings. It is very certain that in Western Europe the apparent wealth of the lower classes has increased, but then its purchase power is not so great as it was.

THE GREATNESS OF ANCIENT INDIA.

In our abounding prosperity we are apt to believe that the past has nothing to compare with it. But historians believe that the people who lived under the sway of the Roman Empire about the time Christ was born, and for a century afterward, were in more comfortable circumstances than those who came before or after them. The civilized world was rich in gold and silver, wars were unfrequent and comfort abundant. But there were other epochs in the world's history of a still more ancient date, when vast masses of human beings were in very comfortable circumstances. At the recent meeting of the Concord School of Philosophy, Dr. H. K. Jones spoke of the former glory of Hindostan. We are apt to forget, he said, that there were once in that country empire, wealth and civil government that has not since been equaled. The Hindoo of seven thousand years ago was finely cultivated, not all idolatrous, and they worshipped one God. Dr. Jones traced the glory of a Hindoo Empire, one city of which had 675 towers. For years the wealth of the world poured into her lap, exceeding computation and belief. They possessed a standing army which made use of 6,000 elephants of war. These reports are not at all incredible when we consider the absorption of the wealth of China, Japan and other countries which was going on. The amount of her commerce, for which Carthage, Greece, and Egypt entertained great projects, was simply stupendous. The arts were also in a very fine state. In the polishing of the diamond, an art which is generally supposed to be of modern growth, they were proficient. They were an agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing people. However low and debased the

Hindoo may now appear, there can be no doubt that he then surpassed in civilization and glory. We are apt to disparage the past, because we only see present.

Against Horse-Shoeing.

Colonel M. C. Weld's noteworthy views on the abuse of shoeing horses, have attracted deserved attention abroad as well as at home and called out one striking statement, of favorable English experience, the points of which we quote from the Mark Lane Express:—

"About three years ago, I was led to give the non-shoeing system a fair trial, commencing with a pony constantly driven, and extending the experiment to the young farm horses, all of which had, however, unfortunately been shod before the trial began, and am now able to endorse the observations of Colonel M. C. Weld in almost every particular, except as regards travelling on paved surfaces, as in Southampton, where there is a tramway, it is found that the pony prefers the paved stoneway to the macadamized part on either side. The time that elapses before the 'dead horn' of the hoof grew out was six months, and it was fully eighteen before the insensibility of the frog had lost its callousness and grown soft, like India rubber. The pony does not work on the farm but goes out nearly every day, the greatest number of miles run in any one week being eighty, and in any one day thirty-two.

Before the shoes were removed it was somewhat of a 'daisy cutter,' had been down once or twice, and stumbled much going down hill; since discarding shoes it has never stumbled once, and I have driven it full trot down a hill covered with snow and ice. The farm horses are young and strong, and have been bred on the farm, and though mostly employed in the fields, are frequently engaged in hauling corn, timber, bricks or manure, for home or hire purposes. No roads than those around Winchester can be more trying, repaired (if) as they are with flints, which have been broken just enough to make them cut like razors, and are a cruelty to horses shod or unshod. I find no difference in the capability of drawing full loads. There is no stamping in the stable or when standing out; asphalt or icy pavements there is no slipping; the feet do not ball up over snow.

The great drawback is that against which all who try any new groove have to contend, namely, the unyielding prejudice of all classes, more especially those who have to look after the horses, who, rather than aid in any change, will throw every obstacle in the way, but to my brother farmers I say emphatically, the man who cuts the frog or shoes his young horses is committing a great error. With a little care you may work them on roads or fields, probably healthier, and yourself be in pocket by the change, and with an occasional rasp the appearance of your horses will be far better than the torn, jagged, heavily-ironed and nailed feet, of one-half the wretched animals it is painful to see about the country."

Major and the cat.

A gentleman in this city owns a fine large dog named Major. Major's hatred of a cat appears to be deep-seated, and he will kill all that come in his way to vent his spite on his enemies. His master's wife had a cat, that she determined he should not harm, and she took great pains to impress the big brute with this idea. She would take puss in her arms, carry her up to the dog, and while stroking or petting her would talk to her in a reprovingly. The intelligent dog seemed to understand every word she said, but for all that he would keep his eyes fastened on puss with a longing and hungry look, as though anxious to bring the pressure of his ponderous jaws to bear upon her spinal column. But his mistress conquered and made him understand he must live on friendly terms with puss. More than once he had been seen watching the cat with a look of evil intent, but out of respect to his mistress he conquered his nature, and would throw himself upon the ground with a sigh expressive of his deep disgust at his situation. The cat was disposed to be on friendly terms with her enemy, but Major would not tolerate the slightest familiarity. Whenever puss approached him he would get up and go away with a melancholy look, which seemed to say: "I am dying to kill you, and it's dog-gone hard luck that I can't do it."

Thus matters went on for some months and puss began to incur the displeasure of her mistress by sneaking up stairs every opportunity and making trouble by curling herself up and taking naps on the snowy counterpane, and doing other such untidy acts as would rouse the ire of a neat housekeeper. One morning the lady told her husband that the cat was getting so troublesome that she guessed it would have to be killed. A few minutes later a rush and a struggling noise was heard, and as the lady of the house hastened to the door to see what had happened, Major walked up to his mistress and laid at her feet the dead body of puss, then looked up with an air of triumph, and wagged his tail with intense satisfaction. He had heard his mistress express the wish that puss might be killed, and this was so in consonance with his own feelings that he went right out and finished the cat.

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