

SULTAN'S HOUSE BILLS

EXTRAVAGANCE PREVAILING IN THE HAREM.

Imperial Cigarette Box Holders — Kitchen With 240 Cooks and 560 Scullions.

No department of the State has been fuller of abuses than that of the civil list, writes the Constantinople correspondent of the London Standard. By the term itself it meant the department which manages the private property of the Sovereign and of certain other members of the imperial family.

During the last thirty years this department in the interest of the Sultan and the palace camarilla has been actively engaged in sweeping into its net revenues from every source whence it could steal them. Within the first month after the revolution of July last it was announced that the Sultan had graciously ceded to the State revenues amounting to £400,000 (Turkish) a year. This sounded very well to those who did not know the country, but on investigation it was proved that the lands and other sources which produced this annual revenue had been improperly taken from the country, the palace having no right whatever to the income in question.

Any one who has visited a Turkish palace or even the residence of a wealthy pasha, must have been struck by the enormous number of idle persons.

LOAFERS ABOUND.

It is unnecessary to speak of imperial pipeholders, imperial light carriers, imperial cigarette box holders, but when such officeholders are each provided with an "assistant" and a long tail of attendants, and such sinners are multiplied several times over the total cost amounts to a huge figure.

The imperial kitchens, for instance, employ some 240 cooks and 560 scullions. Twice a day they prepare about 3,000 "tablas," or trays, each carrying a dozen courses. Three hundred attendants, bearing the trays on their heads, distribute them throughout the palace; some to the Sultan's apartments, to the harem, to the "mabain" (the part of the palace containing the offices and where the Sultan carries on the business of the State), and to a host of sheiks, sherifs and notables.

During the month of Ramazan poor people collect in thousands toward sunset and can count on obtaining "iftar"—the evening meal when good Mohammedans break the fast for the day, taking their first food, water and cigarette since dawn. The waste, extravagance and pollution are beyond description. A French cook at the palace is said to have asked for a little beef to prepare some dish for the Sultan. An ox was brought. On his protesting that he only wanted a little he was answered with a grin that what he did not require could easily be given away!

THE SULTAN'S STABLES

are another pretty extravagance—hundreds of horses, with an army of coachmen, grooms and attendants, all living on the fat of the land, and some of them enjoying salaries that might tempt a bank director. The aviaries form another costly hobby. Birds collected all over the world fill cages and enclosures without number, and another huge staff of servants has the care of them; but of course the harem heads the list of heavy items.

By harem must be understood not only the Sultan's wives, but all sisters, daughters and relatives, with an odd thousand or so of women attendants and servants who ply one pretext or another have succeeded in attaching themselves to the palace. The ladies of the palace keep very high state. Besides their negro attendants they keep up a court, with their ladies of this and mistresses of that, as full and complicated as their lord the Sultan's. In dress and jewelry the ladies of the harem gratify extravagant tastes on which no curb is placed so long as money can be obtained by hook or crook.

Their indoor dress has been of late years generally European, and Paris supplies many a smart gown for them. In jewelry their taste runs rather toward the gaudy and ornate: rings with large diamonds and rubies, emeralds and sapphires; earrings of weight and value, but little artistic beauty; little caps for the head, thickly covered with gems. Their native dresses, too, are frequently stiff with embroidery of precious stones. Cigarette cases and holders, jewel boxes, sweet boxes, hand glasses, brushes and combs, all in massive

GOLD OR SILVER, roughly finished and poorly chased, but set with stones of great beauty and value, are also deemed necessary.

The most serious action of the civil list is, however, seen in the injury that it has caused not only to private individuals, but to the country. Fifteen years ago men were sent around Turkey in order to hunt up desirable plots of land and to find excuses for causing them to be forfeited by the law of

the country and then take possession of on behalf of the Sultan.

The British Embassy, and probably every other embassy, has had during the last twenty years many cases before it of claims that have been made upon the property in the country belonging to British subjects. Diplomatic influence after considerable trouble usually sufficed to defend the possession of these lands, but the wretched Turkish subject who could bring no such influence to bear had to succumb. On the part of the civil list it was a game of might is right, and it was because the country generally was dissatisfied with the attempts that were made upon private property that the civil list became distinctly unpopular.

FOX HUNTING EXPENSIVE.

Interesting Figures by Lord Willoughby de Broke.

Lord Willoughby de Broke is one of the greatest living authorities on hunting topics, and in the National Review he deals at some length with the financial aspects of that noble sport. The keeping of hunters alone, he states, gives a yearly circulation to about £45,000,000, which permeates many industries and trades.

The cost of hunting a pack of foxhounds four times a week, with a professional huntsman each day, is placed by him at \$28,200 per annum. The heaviest items are wages, \$6,130, and straw and forage, \$6,085. Hunting five days a week, with a professional huntsman on three days, the cost is \$31,705. Expenses are steadily increasing.

The poultry fund is in many countries ten times what it was fifty years ago. In his own country it is \$5,000 a year, and, as chickens are paid for at the rate of 50c. per head, it follows that the foxes took 10,000 of them and "did not have altogether a bad time."

"Curiously enough," he notes, "certain poultry keepers always have exactly the same number of chickens killed each year." There are two tariffs of subscriptions, according to the number of horses a man keeps or according to the number of days a week that he hunts. The best rule, he thinks, would be that each gentleman should subscribe annually \$75 and each lady \$50 for each day in the week that they hunt. Then there will be no injustice and an adequate revenue. Such a tariff will produce about \$150 a year per head, and \$37,500 for the expenses of the pack with 250 subscribers.

The huntsman is a fortunate being. He is much the best paid of the servants and makes about \$2,000 or \$2,500 a year in wages, perquisites, and tips. One case is noted where in a single day a huntsman received in tips \$200, and it is added that many huntsmen have died leaving substantial fortunes.

SENTENCE SERMONS.

The soldier of the cross need not be a cross soldier.

No man is well occupied who is too busy to sympathize.

The golden rule is the best antidote for the rule of gold.

The shortest cut to heaven is lifting someone out of hell.

Virtue never needs to demonstrate itself by vociferation.

Little deeds are often like little windows in a large room.

A man has never any more religion than his children can find out.

You never make a mistake in giving where you give part of yourself.

The man who follows his appetites expects his wife to follow his ideals.

It takes more than singing "Home, Sweet Home," to make homes sweet.

When the preacher goes hunting for fame the wolf needs no invitation to the fold.

It's no use talking about divine grace if you cannot be gracious to men.

The holiest work in this world is buying happiness from others with our own toil and pain.

Too many are trying to give this world a holy tone by drowning its wail with hymns and tunes.

Many a man thinks he is working hard when he is only wabbling between duty and desire.

If the man who has nothing to say would only say it he would soon acquire a reputation for wisdom.

There is a world of difference between praying to melt rocks and praying by surmounting them.

It is good to know that heaven does not answer with precision our prayer to be forgiven as we forgive.

It is easy to tell what to do with our bad friends; the bother comes in with the good ones who are no good.

Some of us may find that the kind of heaven we will have is being determined by the kind of houses we are willing folks should inhabit here.

STORIES OF KITCHENER

THE MAN BEHIND THE SCENES IN INDIA.

Tales Showing What Manner of Man the Commander-in-Chief of India Is.

When the Ameer of Arghanistan paid his last visit to India, Lord Kitchener did everything to make his stay as agreeable as possible. Part of his scheme included a secluded garden, in which one dusky rufous could wander at will. Palms, shrubs, flowers, were tastefully arranged, and the only thing needed to complete the picture, in the Commander-in-Chief's mind, was a stretch of lawn, of that greenness so dear to the Briton at home. Turf, however, cannot be grown at a day or two's notice; but Kitchener was quite equal to the occasion. He strewed the ground thickly with mustard-and-cress, and a plentiful supply of water, combined with the hot sun, did the rest. On the Ameer's arrival, a beautiful green expanse awaited him. It only lasted a few days, but it served.

WHO'S THE "BOSS"?

Few men have felt equal to the task of standing up to Kitchener, even when he interfered in matters of his immediate concern; yet he met with a distinct rebuff on a certain occasion from Lieut.-Colonel Girouard, who, years later, was selected by "K of K" to act as chief of the Railways in South Africa. Girouard was engaged in Egypt in the construction of a desert railway, and something in connection with the work did not please Kitchener, who was not slow in expressing his opinion of it. Girouard listened quite silently to his fluent and forcible comments, and at the finish of them quietly remarked, "Look here, sir, are you 'bossing' this railway, or am I?" Kitchener took the hint, and rode off.

AN EARLY RETREAT.

During Lord Kitchener's early career, when on a surveying expedition in Western Palestine, he had to acknowledge one of his singularly few defeats. The camp was invested by a horde of fanatical Moslems, some of whom made a desperate assault on Major Conder—one of the party—clubbing him and felling him to the ground. Kitchener, although armed only with a cane, sprang to his friend's assistance, and covered the major's retreat. One blow at his own head, Kitchener partly parried with his cane, which was assailed to bite by it, while a second assailant struck him heavily across the thigh. Then he was attacked by a man with a huge scimitar, whereof Kitchener, covered with blood, ran as fast as his long legs would carry him. Malarial fever quickly followed this escape, and it was then that Kitchener gave signs of emotion never afterwards displayed. It was a terribly hot afternoon, and he was heard to yell, "For Heaven's sake, give me some beer!"

ONE OF HIS METHODS.

The successful building up of the army in India is largely due to Lord Kitchener's belief in the motto he has always striven to act up to, "Through." For some manoeuvres which were to be carried out at Attock, it was suggested in the details submitted to him, that the troops to take part in the evolutions should be apprised beforehand, in order that they might be in readiness to move at the proper moment. Lord Kitchener's remarks were few, but revealed the man and his methods. Why give them notice? Why warn staff officers? The Army of India should be ready to move anywhere at a few hours' notice. Let the conditions of actual warfare be imitated as closely as possible. "To such a man the task of dealing with any seditious outbreak in connection with the present unrest in India may be safely entrusted."

SPIED ON THE SPIES.

Lord Kitchener's love of first-hand information is evidenced by his acquiring a knowledge of the dialect of the country in which he is engaged. In the past few years he has studied Hindustani; and his acquaintance with Arabic led to a daring exploit in the Sudan. During the Khartoum campaign, a couple of Dervish spies had been captured, but nothing could be extracted from them. They were placed in a closely-guarded tent, into which presently a third spy was unceremoniously bundled. A few hours later the door of the tent was thrown back, and the third spy demanded in English to be conducted to headquarters. It was Kitchener, in full disguise, and he had obtained the information needed. As far as is known, his last appearance as a Dervish was brought about by an Irishman. The latter, seeing some Arabs in the vicinity of the camp, gave vent to his feelings towards all natives by slinging a stone at one of them. This caught Kitchener's eye, whom, of course, the soldier did not recognize—on the side of the

head, and he then gave up further experiments in this direction.

COFFIN AGAINST CAGE.

During the Boer campaign, Lord Kitchener became attached to a startling, which he very much petted and fussed. Thinking its cage too small, he ordered a carpenter to build him a larger one. This was duly forthcoming, a really gorgeous affair, together with a bill for three pounds. Kitchener's regard for economy is a by-word, and he considered the price exorbitant. He appealed to Colonel Morgan, the Director of Supplies, and asked him how much he thought the cage was worth. "Oh, about fifteen shillings!" was the reply. "There, I knew I was right!" went on the delighted general. "And the man has the impertinence to demand three pounds!" "Absolutely absurd!" added Colonel Morgan, with a grin. "Why, I should be glad to supply your coffin for a couple of pounds!"

IN MEMORY OF THE MUTINY.

On one occasion it fell to Lord Kitchener, while in India, to be present at an inspection of two hundred old men, survivors of the native soldiers true to Queen Victoria during the great Mutiny. He gazed in silence, apparently unmoved; as the line of veterans went past; then, turning to an officer at his side—a Highlander—he said, in trembling tones: "Let's give those old men a cheer!" A rising roar went up from all round. At its finish, Lord Kitchener was observed to be nervously handling his chin strap. The sphinx of the British Army was in tears!—London Answers.

IN DARK CONTINENT.

African Night, Sleeping Sickness and Lions.

Caroline Kirkland, in her book on "Some African Highways," writes of night in the dark continent: "There is nothing so black as an African night, and I think that it is because the earth, being a deep red, offers no reflection to the faint starlight, such as we get in other lands. Instead it swallows up what slight glow there may be, and gives to the darkness a dense, velvety quality not to be found anywhere else. Overhead the stars glare more brilliantly than in northern latitudes, but they seem to cast no light, and the night is palpable, suffocating, appalling and filled with a nameless horror which is quite indescribable."

In a single sentence the same writer gives a forcible idea of the sleeping sickness: "While there is nothing actually distressing about this manner of dying, nothing to equal the terrors of other vital diseases like cancer or tuberculosis, there is something peculiarly sinister in the slow, stealthy, irresistible approach of death, whose course no known remedy can stay or alter." Of African lions Miss Kirkland writes: "As a rule it is only old lions who attack human beings. They grow too decrepit to be able to catch the more agile antelopes who are their lawful prey, so, goaded by a hunger which age cannot wither or lessen, they pounce on unwary mortals."

SLEEP WITH HEAD TO NORTH.

Any Other Position Contrary to Laws of Nature.

Two French doctors claim to have discovered that the proper position in which to sleep is to have the head to the north, and the feet pointing south. Any other position, such as east and west, is contrary to the laws of nature. Persons whose heads are placed east and west, therefore, lie in the wrong position at night, and instead of getting rest and comfort, the only wear themselves out in sleep. It was by measuring what they call the "neuro-psychological currents" in man that the two savants came to this conclusion. When awake, they further state, another position—namely east and west—is the best for prolonged activity. Owners of factories and offices where a large number of persons are regularly employed would, they add, find it to their advantage to have their establishments facing east and west. More work can be got out of a man in this position with much less fatigue. If literary men want to write a good composition, they should sit at their desks facing the east. How simple, after all, it will be hereafter to write better than Homer or Shakespeare, or to paint a masterpiece which would fill Michael Angelo with envy.

HE SPOKE TOO SOON.

"Do you carry any fire insurance?" "No, and I don't want any, either. There's the door." "You're mistaken, friend, about not wanting any. I just dropped in to tell you that your house is on fire."

A: "You have used the word 'donkey' several times in the last ten minutes. Am I to understand that you mean anything of a personal nature?" B: "Certainly not. There are lots of donkeys in the world besides you."

THE ROYAL TREASURES

HOW THE PALACE POLICE PROTECT THEM.

Only One Attempt in Forty Years Was Made to Burgle Buckingham Palace.

Very elaborate precautions are taken to ensure the safety of the various priceless treasures at Buckingham Palace and other Royal residences. So complete is the organization that exists for this purpose that the capture of any of the Royal treasures is regarded, even by the most daring and skillful burglars, as quite beyond the possibility of achievement; though, were the vigilance relaxed for a moment, there is not the least doubt that an attempt would be made to burgle some of the Royal palaces.

ENTRANCES GUARDED.

At Buckingham Palace there is a special staff of detectives, whose duty it is to watch over the safety of the Royal treasures. In all, there are five entrances to the palace, and at each there is, during the day, always a servant to see that no one who has not the right of entry passes in. At specified intervals a detective makes a round of three of the entrances, and receives from the servants the names of all who have passed in or out. These entrances are used by tradespeople, who are constantly passing in or out of the palace. The other two entrances are the general one at the front, and a private one at the western side of the palace, for members of the Royal Family.

The front entrance is never visited by the detective staff, for there is always a number of servants in the entrance hall, and at least one official of the Household, to whom any visitor's name is handed before he can proceed any further; it would be, therefore, simply impossible that anyone could enter the palace this way for any evil purpose.

THE PRIVATE ENTRANCE,

however, is watched with very great care; it is, as a matter of fact, seldom used by any members of the Royal Family, who nearly always enter by the front. The only attempt on record during the past forty years to burgle Buckingham Palace was made at this entrance. It was left ajar by the Prince Consort one evening, and a few minutes later a man made his way through it into the palace. He was caught in the passage by a servant, and handed to a detective. An elaborate plan of the palace was found on him, and it was ascertained that he belonged to a daring gang of thieves, who at that time were operating extensively in the West End. He was ultimately sentenced to a long term of penal servitude.

The King had catalogues made out of all the chief pictures and priceless gold, silver, and china works of art in each of the Royal palaces when these were rearranged after his accession; these catalogues are all checked over at regular intervals by the assistant private secretaries in the private secretaries' department, and any changes made in the disposition of these works of art—for many of them are being constantly moved from one Royal residence to another—are carefully noted.

VALUABLE CABINET.

When any very valuable treasure is being moved, it is never out of the sight of two detectives during transit. When the Gouthiere cabinet was being sent to Buckingham Palace, two detectives travelled in the luggage-van with it from Windsor to London, and placed it themselves in the Royal luggage-wagon in which it was taken from the station. This cabinet is not more than three feet long, and a couple of feet in height; but it is worth at least \$250,000, and is one of the King's most valuable possessions.

A few years ago, a notorious cracksmen, whilst undergoing a lengthy term of penal servitude, confessed to the chaplain of the prison that he had planned to burgle Buckingham Palace no less than eleven times, but each of his plans ended in complete failure. One of the schemes, he admitted, was to personate a tradesman's assistant who was going to the palace to mend a window-blind. He offered the assistant a ten-pound note to let him go to the palace in his place; but the latter replied by threatening to give him in charge, and would have done so if the man had not hastily left him.—London Answers.

GOING DOWN.

Clothier—"Were you pleased with the overcoat I sold you?" Customer—"Oh, yes; all the boys have worn it." "Well, think of that." "I do. Every time after a rain the next smaller one has to take it."

UNCLE EZRA SAYS:

"A swelled head may grow from two causes, but in either case it's a nuisance on your shoulders."

HUMAN BRAIN A DYNAMO

ALLEGED MYSTERIOUS VISIONS IN ENGLAND.

May be Existence of Power in the Brain to Affect Surrounding Ether.

Very interesting discussions are now going on in some of the principal English newspapers over alleged mysterious visions that have been seen by persons of education and evident truthfulness. One of these, which has been the subject of many articles and letters, is the experience of a Mr. Brock and family, who say they saw recently a vision of Dr. Astley, the latter being at the time in Algiers, while the seers of the vision were in England. It appears that Dr. Astley was suffering from a concussion of the brain, and was in the hospital at the time when his friends in England thought they saw him in his familiar clerical garb. One of the first explanations was that, in his delirium, his mind had gone back to England and projected his "astral body" there.

THOUGHTS PERHAPS THERE.

But it now appears, from a comparison of times, that at the critical moment the doctor was conscious and talking with his attendant in the hospital. Nevertheless, his thoughts may have been in England, since the subject of his conversation was his lost luggage.

EQUALLY REMARKABLE.

An equally remarkable case which has come up in connection with this is that of Mr. Wilkinson, of the National Liberal Club, London, who saw a vision of a female relative in South Africa entering his door as he was about to retire to bed.

At that time the lady in question was lying unconscious from some injury 8,000 miles away. In neither case does death play a part in the situation.

BRAIN MAY BE DYNAMO.

Experiences like these, when they are well attested, cannot be dismissed without careful consideration. The limits of the domain of the mind have not been ascertained. The new questioned phenomena of radio-telegraphy, as far as they go, render it somewhat easier to conceive that electric waves emanating from dynamos may not be the only force capable of traversing the ether, and in a few moments time encircling the earth. For all that we can positively say, the human brain may be a dynamo of a far finer quality than any mechanic can produce, and the operations of thought may be vibratory in a sense of which we have as yet hardly dreamed.

ILLIMITABLE FORCES.

Tremendous force is required to drive electric waves a thousand miles, and we are unaware of any like force in the brain. But recent discoveries have shown that almost limitless forces exist unrecognized all about us. Think, for instance, of the energy locked up in a bit of radium, an energy utterly unguessed by science until a few years ago. Granted the existence of a power in the brain to affect the surrounding ether, and it would not be very difficult to find a physical explanation of such phenomena as those that are now attracting so much attention in England.

ETHER CARRIES MESSAGES.

At bottom the strange vision of Dr. Astley, projected from Algiers to England, would not appear much more mysterious than the reproduction at one end of a telegraphic circuit of a photograph exposed at the other end. In order to accomplish that feat we are obliged to interpose certain mechanical contrivances, but in the end it is the ether which carries the message, and the telegraphic instruments are simply more or less efficient agents for setting the ether in vibration. The similar agency of the brain, if it exists, is of a far higher order of perfection. But the time has not yet arrived for a decisive pronouncement on this fascinating subject.

UNINTERESTING CARD

PLAYER.

"I'm not going to invite Mr. and Mrs. Brown over here to play cards any more." "What's the matter? Don't you like Brown?" "Oh, he's all right, but she's a positive bore. She won't discuss scandal, millinery, or cake recipes during the game."

PROOF.

Farmer—"I b'lieve there's been somebody fishing in our trout stream behind the barn." Wife—"How do you know? Have you found a line and hooks?" "No. I found a whiskey flask."

THE LAST JUNE-GROOM.

On banded knees He falls once more; This time to wax A hardwood door.