

3 *Personal Attendants*—(body servants)—To attend their masters on all occasions; and to assist the butler in the daily chastisement of the other domestics, *whether they deserved it or not!*

In addition to the *separate* functions here defined, these worthies are bound to perform certain other and not less important duties (which they owe to themselves) in combination with each other, under the general guidance of the butler, whose experience in this *role* eminently qualifies him for operations in which the nicest tact and most consummate address are essential to success. To this end, the whole body corporate are, *practically*, a co-operative association, formed for the benevolent object of preying on the monetary vitals of their respective lords. This beautiful type of moral rectitude is one of those inherent traits of Asiatic character which, being in strict accordance with the precepts of the *Koran*, receives the sanction of time-honored custom, and is therefore shorn of the criminal aspect it would otherwise assume.

Our daily programme was somewhat simple, and (like the *Honorable Company's Regulations*)—uniform; viz. :—

6 a.m., Cup of Coffee; and walk or ride.

7 a.m., Bath and Toilet.

8 a.m., Breakfast; and kick the cook (the latter *only* when necessary or in the interests of discipline.)

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Office; with *Tiffin* (luncheon) at 2 p.m.

6 p.m., Dress; and drive out.

7 p.m., Dinner; (the “after-dinner kicking” process deputed to the Butler, for obvious reasons.)

The remainder of the evening was devoted to easy chairs and slippers, conversation and pipes, and a certain other solace which revives the drooping energies.

Having arrived in October, I was just in time for all the *quieties* of the Madras season. Spiffin (or “*Spiff*,” for the sake of brevity) was “up” to everything on the cards, and I had therefore little difficulty under *his* tuition in effecting an *entree* to the more select and exclusive drawing-rooms of the “*benighted*”<sup>\*</sup> city. These social gatherings, however, are all very well when taken mildly and in easy doses; but I confess that my physique was not sufficiently enduring to be proof against the evil effects of the incessant round of balls, pic-nics, theatres, and other amusements, for which Madras was then distinguished. Besides they had a tendency to unfit me for the duties of my appointment, not that *they* were very pressing (indeed official duties seldom are), but that somnolent habits were gradually stealing upon me. “Spiff” however consoled me by his assurance that when *he* was a “*griff*” (fancy!) he “experienced a similar inconvenience” but that in course of time I should become habituated to the pleasures of the afternoon *siesta*. Spiff was quite correct, inasmuch as *he* devoted one hour daily (4 to 5) to a quiet “indulge” just before leaving office; but it is only justice to him to say that in me he eventually found an apt scholar, and a disciple worthy of the doctrine of “masterly inactivity.”

The *official* section of Indian society (black as well as white) is an ever-

<sup>\*</sup> This adjective has from time immemorial been placed before the word *MADRAS*—a gross libel on the civilization of that great Presidency!