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your head, and your family and ancestors are disgraced. Mr. Kinder estimates the damage and loss by non-running of trains at 50,000 taels (about £12,000), which sum you will have to pay out of your own funds to the Company. For labour, all your officials, soldiers, and the townsfolk will work as you direct, receiving no money for their labour; and all salaries are stopped till the repairs are complete. I shall appoint a board of punishment to return with you, with power to torture and imprison any one who makes the least disturbance or trouble."

The Mandarin begged for mercy on the plea that, as the country was all under water, he could not possibly get mud and stones wherewith to build the embankments. The Toatoi saw the force of this plea, and said he would give him a chance. He could pull down any of his forts he liked in order to provide material for the repair of the railway, and he would give him three months after the railway was completed to rebuild his forts at his (the Mandarin's) own expense. In rather under three weeks the trains were running again, and they are now rebuilding the forts. How long would it have taken to bring about the same results in England?

A newspaper in Bridgeport recently printed the following advertisement:—"Chu Fong would likee smally nice Inglese lady. She has no have to work, as Chu Fong got a big lot of money. Chu Fong will do the washee and the cookee; wife she can dress up every day.—Chu Fong."

The Duke of Wellington's amiability and gentleness are well known. A story about him, which I have just heard, is amusing. He was presiding recently over a philanthropic meeting, concerning the distribution of clothing to poor people. A lady journalist was present, in a professional capacity, and going up to her before the commencement of the meeting, the Duke said: "In the course of my speech I shall, I am afraid, have to mention the word 'trousers.' I hope you will not think me unnecessarily rude." The lady thinks it a good joke.

As many good stories about the late Sir Richard Burton are going the rounds, the following, which I heard from one of his friends, may be interesting. At Trieste, at one time, he was much annoyed by the priggish inquisitiveness of a clergyman who peered and poked into everything. Burton set a trap for him. The Reverend Paul Pry, ushered into Burton's study one day,

was left alone, although, unknown to himself, he was being carefully watched. He commenced prying round, and a curtain drawn across an alcove stimulated his curiosity. He went to it and lifted it; but it was so arranged that when moved it fell from its fastenings to the ground. There, in the alcove, luxuriously reclining upon a couch, was a very pretty girl with very little on. Just as the clergyman, startled by what he saw, was gazing, the door was burst open, and Burton and a party of friends entered. It was a trick characteristic of the translator of the "Arabian Nights," and it put the clergyman to such confusion that he was cured of his annoying propensity.

Some amusing stories of the manners and customs of the Australian aborigines were told by several colonists at the monthly meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute last night. Mr. Henniker Heaton, for instance, amused the audience by telling of a missionary who came to Queensland to indicate a higher Christianity, without rewards for attendance. King Billy, with a brass plate, was told off to interview the missionary with new-fangled notions, and Mr. Heaton says the following dialogue ensued:—King Billy: "No more 'bacey?'"—Missionary: "No." King Billy: "No more blanket?"—Missionary: "No." King Billy: "No more rum?"—Missionary: "No, no more bribery." King Billy, drawing himself up to his full height, and with scorn, marched away with this parting shot: "All right, good day; no more Alléluia!" This tale may be compared with one told by Mr. Littleton, whose black boy in Queensland once delighted a missionary by saying a well-known short prayer most reverentially, but immediately leaping up and demanding, "Gib me six; encc." At this rate it is no wonder that missions are an expensive undertaking.

THEY had been married some four weeks, and the honeymoon had shone bright and clear, and they were ever so cosy in their little cottage. After she had loaded her boy up for about a fortnight with her own cooking, being a sensible little woman and knowing she never did look well in crape, she decided to engage a cook. And now they were jointly drawing up the advertisement. Milly: "How will this do Georgie, dearest? 'Wanted, good plain cook for family of two. Address.'" Georgie Dearest: "Well, darling, I wouldn't put in the plain. Just say neat and pleasant manners." "Yes, darling, 'neat and pleasant manners'—anything else, sweetie?" G. (forgetting himself and speaking to the ceiling): "Brunette preferred, and plump." Milly: "Mr. B., my original advertisement will do quite well, and I will take mother's advice."

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