

Select Literature

TURKISH SLAVE

DUMB DWARF OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

BY LEAFY RAY.

Continued.

"It is Esmah's step-mother," said Esmah, "I cannot be seen with you, Alick—what is to be done?"

"No, that were fatal indeed," said the page, quickly, looking about him.

"Where can you hide?"

"Behind the curtain, or else I will go out at the window—

"If I should be seen, Alick, I should never forgive myself."

"It is indeed he."

"Quick, for your life!"

"I will wait him."

"Farewell, then," said Esmah.

"Stay," said the page, quickly impressing a kiss upon her hand; and in another moment he had swung himself lightly from the balcony to the ground, and was standing before the door of the harem, as he called his harem, by Esmah, the chief of the eunuchs, an important officer in the household service of a sultan.

CHAPTER II.

THE STAR OF THE HAREM.

In a land where personal beauty alone makes the market value for a woman, and where the main occupation is bathing, eating and administering to the amusement of their Turkish masters, or engaging in sentimental correspondence, by means of flowers, with the forbidden Greeks and Armenians, it is not to be supposed that any degree of intelligence is to be found among the gentle sex, and therefore, when, by any strange chance, such a phenomenon as a woman evincing any tokens of a cultivated mind appeared in Constantinople, it was deemed and treated as something quite remarkable. Unlike her sex in any other part of the world, Nature seems to have made the woman of the East, though noted for her sentiment of character, yet more coy, beautiful, indolent, childlike creatures.

Beautiful as the most beautiful, yet evincing a rare cultivation of mind and refinement of taste, Esmah, daughter of the Grand Sultan Mahomet, by his favorite Circassian wife, was the star of her father's palace. Though but sixteen years of age, she was said to possess more influence over the proud and austere monarch, her father, than his entire court could boast.

From her very infancy she loved and doted upon her with a most unselfish and fondness, and she grew up in womanly beauty, and showed signs of remarkable mental ability, the father was more proud of her than any of his most promising sons, even those that were nearest to his succession.

In short, Esmah realized Moore's beautiful picture:

"But never yet hath bride or maid, In Arab's gay gardens smiled, Whose bosom's fragrance would not fade Before the breeze's blessing gale."

The astute old Turk would sit by her side, and talk or smoke with a satisfaction that left him not ungenerous and agreeable good spirits and on such occasions he would, when well satisfied with himself and all the world, when a dreamy, half intoxicated influence pervaded his brain, call in his page Alick, to go and play the lute upon his guitar. The Greek was a natural musician, and his wild, free touch, and the plaintive national lays that he chanted were so thrilling and spirited, and then so soft and winning, that they never tired, but rather won the heart of the listener, more and more. And finally, when the sultan was overcome by the opinion, which, perhaps, Alick would sometimes put in his pipe rather largely, then Esmah would steal away from her father's side to that of the young Greek, and thus were many golden hours passed in interchange of thought and feeling between the Princess Esmah and the sultan's humble page. They were young, thoughtful, and almost too happy thus together, in a spot sacred from all intrusion.

"Now tell me one of these stories that I like so well, but which you never repeat in my father's waking hours," Esmah would say.

"And do you like them so well then?" asked the page tenderly.

"Oh, beyond everything," she would reply, with an innocent and earnest expression.

"I could tell them to them to this forever."

"And I could ever listen."

"Ah, dear one, said the page, 'I would that you were humble like myself, and that we had met in my native land, of which I so often tell thee: we would have been so happy there, all the world to each other, and no fear to my own joy, no rank to separate us. Don't remember the time I told thee yesterday at what we have, Esmah?"

"I do indeed, Alick: 'twas of an humble maid, and an humble lover, who, though poor, almost to very poverty, yet loved so dearly, were so true and faithful to each other, that they heeded not the frowns of fathers and a good spirit, whose charge it was to watch over virtue and humble merit, showed to the lover in a dream a mine of gold; awakening from the slumber, the lover sought and found the goodly wealth he dreamed of; but finding to tempt a heart now so pure and good, who would you had got enough of the gold for comfortable subsistence, he dreamt again, and was made happy spirit to forget the spot, which ever after he could not find. But his fidelity was rewarded, and they were happy."

"You remember well, dearest," said the page, "now would I that we were that humble couple, with not enough of riches to make us luxurious, but just enough to be beyond the reach of want, and thus in humble life our love should flourish, and you be happy like Esmah and myself."

"Happy? yes! beyond comparison blessed, Alick, could I but be so blessed with thee."

"Ah, dearest girl, there are but pictures and vain fancies for fate, hard fate, hath separated us by iron bonds."

"Not irreversibly, Alick."

"We can only hope that this is the case, Esmah—but in the land of this, straight-forward reason, I can read but little hope."

"Every such of its make, Esmah, said the princess, sighing.

"Nay, I can but hope that I would not be so, before thee, yet enough to be beyond the reach of want, and thus in humble life our love should flourish, and you be happy like Esmah and myself."

"Then talk no more of this, but tell me again of your native land, and picture to me as you have always done, for already I feel as though it were my own, so well I love it."

"It is a pleasant task, Esmah—pleasant to talk

of beloved Greece, and sweet to have thee for a listener."

At such moments he told her, with thrilling eloquence, of his native land, and told her how he loved her, self-respect and a love of virtue, he taught her the true dignity of her sex, and how she was esteemed and cherished in other countries.

He filled her young and impressionable mind with the fire and freedom of patriotism, and her a hundred old legends of chivalry and love, that he had learned in boyhood, and taught her to read and comprehend, qualifications deemed quite superfluous in a Turkish harem. Thus, step by step, and day by day, the young Greek went in the affections of the young princess, until Esmah loved him above all else in life, giving him her whole heart, and centering all her hopes in him, who was so far below her in position that she could never hope to call him husband. Such an idea was in contradiction to all her experience and knowledge, and she knew that her love, publicly acknowledged, would be a criminal offence in Constantinople.

But we must return to the page, who did so easily get rid of the consequences of their last meeting in the score of the balcony. We left Alick just as he had swung himself from the balcony window to the ground, after kissing Esmah's hand. Scarcely had he recovered himself upon his feet, when an officer of the household, on duty near the spot, rudely seized him by the arm, exclaiming at the same time:

"Dog of a Christian, thou hast polluted the shrine with a kiss!" He was wretched, and then must die to expiate the sin. Come before the sultan, that he may adjudge thee to the lowesting at once, as thou richly deservest. The curse of Allah rest upon thy head."

"Loose thy hold!" said the page, while his dark eye flashed with anger.

"Never!" replied the Turk, grasping him still more fiercely.

"By the prophet, no!" growled the Greek, struggling with his stronger antagonist.

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of the boy who had performed the noble deed, to be continued.

UNDER ROYAL PATRONAGE

THE "WAVERLY HOUSE."

By E. H. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

By all the British American Governments, and by the English Nobility and Gentry, as well as by the most distinguished Americans, whom business or pleasure may have brought to St. John, who have joined in pronouncing it

THE FAVORITE HOUSE OF THE PROVINCE.

By the Proprietor, thankful for past favors, would respectfully intimate to the travelling Public that he will spare no pains or expense to render the House still more respectable by his improvements.—Every attention paid to the comfort of guests.

JOHN GUTHRIE, Proprietor.

St. John, N. B., Oct. 31, 1866.

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SQUARE ROD,

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AND

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GOOD SMOKING TOBACCO.

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Charlottetown, P. E. I.

January 16, 1867.

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200 BBL. FLOUR!

Warranted good as any on the Island.

150 bbls Prime Herring

Call and judge for yourselves.

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FLOUR, TEA SUGAR MOLASSES, GIN AN UM, &c. &c.

THE SUBSCRIBER HAS IN STORE AND FOR SALE—

11 Hbls. Bright Porto Rico SUGAR;

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150 Chests Superior LUNG TEA;

25 Hbls. Holland GIN;

500 Bbls. Superior EXTRA FLOUR;

80 Boxes Liverpool SOAP;

140 Bundles White Cotton WARP;

Hbls. and Qrs. Casks Pale BRANDY;

Hbls. Port and Sherry WINE.

OWEN CONNOLLY,

Charlottetown, 27th Feb. 1867.

BRITISH PERIODICALS.

The London Quarterly Review, (Conservative.)

The Edinburgh Review, (Whig.)

The Westminster Review, (Radical.)

The North British Review, (Free Church.)

AND

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, (Tory.)

These foreign periodicals are regularly published by us in the same style as heretofore. Those who know them and who have long subscribed to them, need no reminder; those whose the evil war of the last few years has deprived of their once welcome supply of the best periodical literature, will be glad to have them again within their reach; and those who may never yet have met with them, will certainly be well pleased to receive accredited reports of the progress of European science and literature.

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For any one of the Reviews, 50 per ann.

For any two of the Reviews, 75 per ann.

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FARMER'S GUIDE,

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(THIS HOTEL, formerly known as the "GLOBE HOTEL," is the largest in the City, and centrally situated; it is now opened for the reception of permanent and transient Boarders. The subscriber trusts, by strict attention to the wants and comfort of his friends and the public generally, to merit a share of public patronage.)

For the Dress or Levee always on hand. Good stabling for any number of horses, with a careful hostler in attendance.

JOHN MURPHY, Proprietor.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., New 24, 1867.

LOST.

At the beginning of May last, a black pocket book, containing a sum of money, two letters, one addressed to Mr. Thos. Ross, North Lake, East Point; the other to Mrs. Richardson, Souris. Any person leaving the above at this Office will be suitably rewarded.

Charlottetown, June 6th, 1867.

A FINE CHANCE FOR SPECULATORS.

ENTERPRISING MEN!

THIS unexpected news has been instructed by the Owners to offer for SALE, in the most valuable FREEHOLD

and LEASEHOLD PREMISES, in the City and other parts of the Island, in good cultivation

will be sold, and possessing other advantages, and for which good and valid titles, and immediate possession can be given.

Also, four LOTS, being the residue of the late Building Lots, (the other nine having been sold the present season) as

also, two LOTS, being the residue of the late Building Lots, (the other nine having been sold the present season) as

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