

INTERESTING ITEMS.

INDIAN AMAZONS.—These gardens, being chiefly intended for the resort of the ladies of the minister's family, were guarded by a company of female sepoy, of which the Mizam has a battalion—a rather uncommon circumstance in the present day; the Maharais Runjeet Singh being, perhaps, the only prince boasting a similar establishment. The women composing this corps wore uniforms and accoutrements closely resembling those of the sepoy, and shouldered their muskets, and went through the manual and platoon exercise with infinite credit to themselves, firing several volleys with great precision. They also marched and countermarched to the martial notes of the drum and fife; the performer on the first named instrument being the prettiest girl in the whole battalion. Her warlike occupation did not appear to render her at all insensible to the claim afforded by her beauty, of which she seemed quite as sensible as the more frivolous portion of her sex could possibly be, showing it too, by the same coquetties. These Amazons have distinguished themselves very brilliantly in action; an old officer in the Mizam's service declaring that he had seen them return to the charge when the European force had been driven back. Fortunately for British credit, the troops stigmatized were not our countrymen, the nation suffering this disgrace shall be nameless. No longer called upon to engage in the field, the duties of this battalion are now confined to home service, where they are employed in guarding the zenans of the great officers of government. With the exception of the drummers before named, the females composing the corps were a hard-featured, weather-beaten set, well calculated for the task of repulsion, and only interesting on account of the singular nature of their profession.—*Asiatic Journal*.

THE CROCODILE.—The crocodile is an entirely different animal from the alligator, the latter being ferocious and dangerous, while the former is the most harmless of animals, as perfectly so as the pigeon or the dove. Mr. Buckingham says he has seen women and children in the water up to their necks, while crocodiles were swimming about near them. "The impression is universal that they are perfectly harmless. How they might behave if attacked and wounded, I will not say. Perhaps it might then be very formidable; but when undisturbed, it is peaceable and avoids man. It seems, in fact, a cold-blooded creature, like the turtle, and feeds on worms and roots." Mr. Buckingham states that Juvenal relates that the inhabitants of Tentara and those of Crocodilopolis, both cities of the Nile, quarrelled about the question, whether the crocodile should be worshipped as a god, or not; and that on a certain day, one of the parties appeared riding on the backs of crocodiles which they had trained to war, and challenged their enemies to the combat. Whether the statement be true or not, he considers it not incompatible with the quiet and tractable nature of the crocodile. The anatomical structure of the heads of the alligator and of the crocodile indicate very different animals; that of the former showing vast strength of jaw, fitting it for a beast of prey; while that of the crocodile is wholly weak and inefficient.

POPULAR POISON.—When pure ardent spirits are taken into the stomach, they cause irritation, which is evinced by warmth and pain experienced in that organ; and next inflammation of the delicate coats of this part, and sometimes gangrene. They act in the same manner as poison. Besides the local injury they produce, they act on the nerves of the stomach which run to the brain, and if taken in large quantities, cause insensibility, stupor, irregular convulsive action, difficult breathing, profound sleep, and often sudden death. The habitual use of ardent spirits causes a slow inflammation of the stomach and liver, which proceeds steadily, but is often undiscovered till too late for relief.—*London Medical and Surgical Journal*.

SAXON LADIES.—A tourist in Germany gives the following description of the Saxon ladies: "Ladies are models of industry; whether at home or abroad, knitting and needle-work, no interruption. A lady going to a rout would think little of forgetting her fan, but could not spend half an hour without her implements of female industry. A man would be quite pardonable for doubting, on entering such a drawing room, whether he had not strayed into a school of industry; and whether he was not expected to chorten stockings instead of dealing in small talk. At Dresden it is carried so far, that even the theatre is not protected against stocking wares. I have seen a lady gravely lay down her work, wipe away the tears which the sorrows of Thekla, in Wallenstein's death, had brought into her eyes, and immediately resume her knitting."

A correspondent states that an intelligent traveller has discovered, near the Colorado river, in Texas, fifteen miles from Bastrop, a native tree which produces gum-elastic, or caout-chouc. The same writer states that, in the vicinity of Mustang prairie, a salt spring, or saline, has been discovered, of such excellence and abundance of water, that it is thought sufficient to supply the whole republic. Mineral coal, in great abundance, is also found not very far from the same prairie; and iron ore, the most valuable of all minerals, is abundant near the river Trinity. If, in addition to this, we could say there was an abundance of forest-

wood in all parts of Texas, it would be the most important discovery in the whole catalogue.

GIGANTIC WORKS.—Southern Asia is the parent of every thing gigantic in art. The ancient Egyptians were remarkable for the same thing; but we must remember that the prototype of almost every thing Egyptian is to be found in India, and we doubt not that the Egyptians were Hindoos or Arabians, who derived all their knowledge from Hindostan.

Among the specimens of art of the *gigantic* kind, now in India, is a piece of cannon in the old fortress of Bidchapour. When, or by whom it was cast, is not known. Its length is 14 feet 4 inches; its mouth 2 feet 4 inches in diameter; its charge of powder 428 pounds, and the weight of shot carried by it, 3,360 pounds. A ball sufficiently large for this cannon, would weigh not less than one and a half tons.

PEACE UPON EARTH.

To be said or sung in the year of our Lord, 2,500.

Peace upon earth! her flowers are fair;
Her fields are green; her sky is blue;
And happy faces mingle there;
In harmony with nature too.
Peace upon earth! O happy day;
Let all mankind their homage pay.

Peace upon earth! No more her joys
Are broken by the sound of strife;
But playful girls, and laughing boys,
Feel that to love is dearest life.
With happy hearts, and cheerful voice;
With generous nature they rejoice.

Peace upon earth! The father's care
Has led his children up to man.
Peace upon earth! The mother's prayer
Shall fix the purpose love began.
Love rules the parent and the child;
The hallowed heart; the young and wild.

Peace upon earth! Here Beauty walks,
Among the bravest and the best;
Here no determined villain stalks,
To tarnish her exulting crest.
Here all unknown relenting ruth;
For all is confidence and truth.

Peace upon earth! We hear no more
The heavy tramp of armed men;
Nor the loud shout of battle's roar;
Nor the shrieks of the dying, that mingled then
With the orphan's cry, and the widow's moan,
And the manly bosom's heavy groan.

Peace upon earth! Oh list awhile;
Hearken to freedom's merry song;
Come now, and see the negro smile;
And hear him tell his country's wrong;
And give his hand a friendly grasp,
A loving brother's tender clasp.

Peace upon earth! So freedom sings;
Peace upon earth, and all good will!
Liberty now has spread his wings,
And holds upon his progress still;
Like a meteor bright, of ethereal birth,
From sphere to sphere, from earth to earth.

MOURNING AMONG THE INDIAN WOMEN.—Mr. Catlin states that at a period of mourning among the Indian women in certain tribes, they crop their beautiful hair short off, and as it gradually grows out they gradually go out of mourning until it gets to its full length again, when they are entirely out of mourning. Such is one of the touching symbols of the Indian's grief.

THE CAMEL AND DROMEDARY.—It is generally supposed that the camel has two humps and the dromedary one. This is not the fact. There are two species of the camel, one of which has one hump, and is common to Africa, Arabia and all India; the other has two humps, and is peculiar to Bactria. The two-humped camels are less numerous than those with one hump—about one in ten. "The term dromedary is rather distinctive of the employment of the animal, than of its species. When used to carry burdens, it is called a camel; when used to ride upon, it is called a dromedary; and those thus employed, travel with great rapidity. The camel will carry eight hundred or one thousand pounds. The dromedary will trot eighteen or twenty miles an hour; and is less fatiguing to the rider than to ride on horse-back.

CRETAN WOMEN NEITHER DANCE NOR SING.—It must be observed, that no woman of the Island ever sings; and the Sfakian women, whose seclusion and reserve is greater than that of the other female Cretans, never even dance, except on some great religious festivals, and then only with very near relations. Manias, who thinks that the readiness with which the women of Mylopotamo and other parts of the island join in the dance is

hardly creditable to them, was greatly horrified at the idea of any respectable females ever singing, and assured me, that it was quite impossible for a Greek woman to disgrace herself by doing anything so disreputable.—*Pashley's Travels in Crete*.

OPENING NUTS.—There are three creatures, the squirrel, the field mouse, and the bird called the nut-hawk, which live much on hazel nuts, and yet they open them each in a different way. The first, after rasping off the small end splits the shell in two with his long fore teeth, as a man does with his knife; the second nibbles a hole with his teeth, as regular as if drilled with a wimble, and yet so small, that one would wonder how the kernel could be extracted through it; while the last pecks an irregular ragged hole with his bill. But as this artist has no paws to hold the nut firm while he pierces it, like an adroit workman, he fixes it, as it were, in a vice, in some cleft of a tree, or in some crevice, then standing over it he perforates the stubborn shell.

GIPSIES.—It is supposed that Gipsies took their rise in 1517, while Selem was settling the government of Egypt. Great numbers of the ancient inhabitants withdrew into the deserts and plains, under one Bingareos, from which they attacked the cities and villages of the Nile, and plundered whatever fell in their way. Selem and his officers perceiving that it would be a matter of great difficulty to extirpate those marauders, left them at liberty to quit the country, which they did in great numbers, and their posterity is known all over Europe by the name of *Gipsies*. Many of them, however, were afterwards incorporated with, and adopted the manners of the people among whom they resided.

GREECE.—A foreign correspondent of the New York American gives the following account of the sad condition of the government of Greece: "The government of Greece possesses no inherent power; it is entirely subject to foreign influence; its domestic revenue falls far short of its wants; its jurisdiction is but nominal in a large portion of the kingdom; bands of insurgents and robbers give battle to the king's troops and police, intercept the taxes, etc. Poverty and disorder prevail every where; and Russian power and gold at Athens."

The Etesian winds are of great advantage in navigating the Nile, thus evincing the beneficence of Providence. The Nile has no tides, and the current flows at the rate of eight miles per hour, so that navigation would be impossible were it not for these winds, which, blowing up the river for ten months of the year, will carry boats with light draught and a great deal of sail, at the rate of ten miles per hour against the current, or eighteen miles per hour through the water.

FLOODATIONS.—The inundations of the Nile commenced invariably on the twenty-fourth of June, and gradually increase until the water covers the whole country at an average depth of five or six feet. The houses are erected upon piles, and the people pass and re-pass in boats and on causeways. It is, of course, a season of repose; also one of general festivity—the Egyptian carnival.

An Irish gentleman called on a singing-master to inquire his terms—the singer said, that he charged two guineas for the first lesson, but only one guinea for as many as he pleased afterwards. "Oh, bother the first lesson," said Mooneygan, "let us commence with the second."

ANECDOTE OF GILBERT STEWART, THE AMERICAN PAINTER.—Stewart was as remarkable for the vigor of his language as for the strength with which he portrayed with the pencil. While in the city of New York, his rooms were open on particular days to receive visitors, who thronged to admire the productions of the gifted artist, who had won such reputation for his country abroad. Among others came Talleyrand. Stewart, a great physiognomist, fixing his eyes upon him attentively for a moment, remarked to a friend, with violent emphasis and gesture—"If that man is not a villain, the Almighty does not write a legible hand!"

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