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FEBRUARY 16, 1892.

ASPASIA TO PERICLES.

The immortal Greek chats about other no less immortal women. With apologies to Walter Savage Landor and Prof. Hutton.



ANY and other marvellous things have I read and heard, and not the least interesting are the words of many and other both illustrious and learned and profound philosophers—and of these not the least illustrious and learned and profound a certain Huttonos of Oxford—touching and concerning the island of Atlantis.

There are many other beautiful works of this famous man, but none so strange and entertaining as his treatise about that mystic land. According to this great Athenian, therefore, this heavenly island is in the unknown land he calls America, and the inhabitants are manifest corresponding for the most part to our "epheboi" and "sophists," but with this exception, by no means a slight one, for in that divine place there are female "epheboi" as well as male, and it was only by the sternness, it is angelic how fortunate, of the "boule" or council, that there have not been female sophists as well.

Now among other and singular adventures that philosopher represents himself, how he found a society of the "Lovers of Literature and of the Science of Nature," and how they were divided into factions, and held elections, striving mightily under the influence of some god or goddess, and how they for the most part drank barley-wine, although some few drank grape-wine, so as to get into a condition

it is heavenly how sober; although for the most part they were eloquent men in the assembly. He tells, too, how some of the learners and sophists cut up little frogs and fishes, but did not eat them, as other men do, but put them in jars to preserve them, wherefore he conjectures they are sardines or anchovies. And again, he tells of the residents how this pained his heart calumniating the flesh and cheese how infernal they were, but I have heard of some who heard of them how they buried them once in a coffin, intending, to make a conjecture, to offer it to the gods who dwell in the vaults beneath. Moreover he shows us the female epheboi how they first came to Atlantis and how they civilised the male learners, so that these latter wore clean linen and ties it is heavenly how beautiful.

Now accordingly, it is of these female epheboi I would write to thee, for since the end of that famous writer's history they have grown and waxed mightily, and it is suspected the male species may even in the end become extinct, although that famous Darwin holds not. O Pericles, by Zeus, the king of gods and men, if thou couldst but once behold these epheboi thou wouldst forsake me as being but an inferior among them. Some of them are tall even like daughters of the gods, as that famous Tennyson also says, and some of them are short even like daughters of other gods, if I may coin an expression. Now all of them, outwardly at least, worship Athena as being the goddess of wisdom, but not a few of them, secretly at least, worship Aphrodite as being the goddess of beauty. Now, in my opinion at least, it is better to worship both Athena and Aphrodite, and I think you would think even as I. Not but what there are some of the male epheboi who believe that the golden apple even in Atlantis should be given even as Paris also awarded it, as that great poet tells us; and that, too, as many of the male epheboi have as yet no beards to bless their chins.

Now many and other strange things have I learned about them, and not the least strange have I seen some of them how they cut up and preserve fishes, even as that Huttonos says about the male epheboi, not but what, in my opinion at least, it is the duty of the female to do the cutting up and preserving.

To pass over many and other heavenly things, I fain would tell them of these epheboi how they have also for their part a society of the "Lovers of Literature." And concerning this also a certain famous Gallic manuscript was written, a copy of which I enclose, telling of the epheboi how their society was formed. Now it is well known, both to many others and to me as well, that their society has held assemblies and elected officers, even as the male epheboi. But, by Zeus, a yet more heavenly and divine thing, some of them at least have stood up in the assembly and spoken even like men; whom, in truth, if thou couldst have heard thou wouldst have thrown that famous funeral oration, that about the fallen Athenians, into the waste-paper basket. Thus much of these things have I written to thee, but one thing I would ask, and may Athena give thee wisdom to answer it. For in the former part of my letter I quoted that famous Huttonos how he tells of the male "Lovers of Literature." Dost thou think, accordingly, the same will befall the females?

Many other things I would write to thee, but I must comb my hair so I can answer the telephone. Farewell.
ASPASIA.

Cornell, presented with a noble new library and the equally noble gift for its endowment, has entered upon a new epoch in its history. Henry W. Sage gives \$200,000 to found a School of Philosophy and \$300,000 to endow a library, also the library building itself at a cost of \$260,000. Ex-President White donates his library valued at \$100,000, making the total amount (with other donations) Cornell has received the last year reach the sum of \$1,547,000, enough in itself to endow a very good college. College of Agriculture of Cornell is setting on foot a movement in behalf of the forestry and roadmaking of the State.