IN AN EGYPTIAN HAREM.

The Ignorance and Luxury of the Women and Their Unchanging Routine.

There can be no domestic life where there is no woman at the head of the household, writes Rose Eytinge in the New York Star, and the Egyptian women are mere nullities. There is no middle class, so that they are divided into the two class extremes of high and low. The high life is that of the harem, as they call it, and not the harem, and is much better known throughout Europe than that of the lower class Egyptian women. During my residence at Cairo I was frequently admitted to the harem upon the invitation of the mother of the viceroy of Egypt, Ishmail Pasha, father of the present pasha.

I often used to spend a whole day in the harem and never saw any of the women doing anything useful. They are very seldom taught to read or write. Conversation is generally carried on with a foreigner in French, through the aid of an interpreter. I soon picked up enough Arabic to converse with them without aid. They live in great splendor and total idleness. They have no pictures in their palaces and possess no foreign or native literature. They never sew, or even embroider, and their only recreation consists in seeing girls dance and in listening to barbaric music, or to stories told them by an old woman in true "Arabian Nights" style.

The Egyptian women are fully developed at the age of 13 and old at 30. Their forms are usually most exquisite until fat—the bane of both men and women in high life—destroys the delicate beauty of their outline. The upper portion of their faces, eyes, brows, and forehead is wondrously lovely, but the lower part, below the nose, is ugly, badly formed, and heavy as a rule. Fortunately for them, they are enabled to conceal these defects by the veil they wear. So far from being discontented with their lot, the women of Egypt have the utmost pity for their civilized sisters, especially in matters of the heart. They say our husbands care nothing for us, or they would not allow other men to look upon our faces, and think that civilized women possess no modesty to go unveiled. To amuse them, I told them once of the great surplus of female population in the New England states—largely maiden—and of the struggles so many of our girls there and elsewhere are obliged to undergo in order to earn their own living. They laughingly quoted a proverb answering to ours of half a loaf better than no bread at all, declared that the fractional possession of a husband was better than no husband at all. They were much surprised, even indignant, that we should call ourselves civilized and yet make laws compelling a rich man to have but one wife, when he might maintain fifty or more, and so husbands and support for our hard-working single women would be provided.

The life of the high class Egyptian woman is that of monotony, relieved by the splendor of her surroundings—that of the low-class women the same monotony, embittered by hardship and unrelieved by recreation save during one month of the year. This month all good Mussulmans set apart for a religious observance answering to, but more strict as to fasting than, our lent. It is called Ramadan, and occurs, I think, in the early spring. The men continue their usual agricultural labor all day, but from sunrise until sunset nothing of food or drink passes their lips. But when the muezzen sounds for evening prayer—before the strokes are finished, wherever it may find them—they hastily draw from their clothing bread and a bottle and begin to eat and drink with the avidity born of long fasting. This is a singular sight to a European accustomed to see people eat only indoors, except in the rush at a railway station, with proper slowness and decorum. The Egyptians make up at night for their abstinence during the day, and, sunset past, they fall to and cook and eat and drink and feast and dance al night long till sunrise, when fasting must be resumed. Then the fellahs, a term answering to that of our laboring man, go out to till the fields, while the women repair the ravages made by the nocturnal dissipation by sleep.

"Fools Rush in, Where Angels Fear to Tread."

—So impetuous youth is often given to folly and indiscretions, and, as a result, nervous, mental and organic debility follow, memory is impaired, self-confidence is lacking; at night bad dreams occur, premature old age seems setting in, ruin is in the track. In confidence you can and should write to Dr. R. V. Pierce of Buffalo, N.Y., the author of a treatise for the benefit of that class of patients, and describe your symptoms and sufferings. He can cure you at your home, and will send you full particulars by mail.

Had a Dead Arm.

From the Detroit Free Press.

The other day a well-known Detroit doctor was eating lunch in a restaurant alongside of a business man, when the latter remarked:

"I just saw a case to interest you in the cigar store. There is a man there who has no feeling at all in his right arm."

"Case of paralysis, of course," replied the doctor.

"Oh, no, it isn't. He has been examined by some of the most eminent surgeons and they declare that it isn't. If it was a case of paralysis he couldn't move his arm, you know."

"How long has it been so?"

Over 20 years he tells me. He says he'll pay any doctor $5000 to restore the natural feeling."

"I'll see him," remarked the doctor, and when dinner was over the two went into the cigar store, and the medical man was introduced.

"Did this thing happen all at once?" asked the doctor.

"Yes, sir; there was no warning whatever."

"Does the arm feel dead?"

"Perfectly dead. You can stick your knife into it without my feeling a sensation."

"That's odd. Let me feel of it."

The doctor put out his hand, made one grip, and then turned on his heel and left the place, his face as red as paint and his gait somewhat eccentric.

It was a wooden arm. The real one was shot off at Gettysburg.

Hat Improvement.

—The great drawback to the silk and pullover hat is their weight and hardness to the head, giving the hatter trouble to sell besides being uncomfortable to the wearer. The trouble has been to make a light hat and have it stand and keep its shape. This has been accomplished by Smith, the hatter. By carefully selecting his materials and by use of the patent steel wire for the brims he has built a silk hat fitting as easy as a soft hat, and after a trial of six months there is not a man having worn one but that gives it the preference and praises the maker for introducing what has long been wanting. ed-x

German Competition.

Manufacturers in Wolverhampton in Staffordshire, England, are becoming alarmed at the rapid increase of German competition. Not only are Germans competing vigorously with them in neutral markets, but they are underselling them in the home market. It transpired that a leading Wolverhampton tool firm had lost a good South American order for axes because of German underselling; further, that Wolverhampton merchants are now ordering wire nails and screws of German make at prices greatly under those of Birmingham manufacturers. The latter declare that either import duties must be imposed or the operatives must work more hours.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

My wife isn't much of a beauty,
But a homekeeping body is she;
Efficient in housekeeping duty
And makes the house pleasant for me.
She wears the most tasty apparel,
And she's a perpetual joy;
And we've never in life had a quarrel,
For she cooks like an angel, my boy.
—*Pittsburg Times.*

French as she is spoke.—The Browns spent their New Year's day at "dear Parry." Brown pere: Garsong, bring us some lunch. Garcon: Oui, m'sieu—pour quatre? Brown: Cat! No, hang it all, I say——Garcon: Peutetre, m'sieu——Brown: Potater! Well yes, potater, if you like, and beef; but, mind you, no cat!

—Why will you allow a cough to lacerate your throat or lungs and run the risk of filling a consumptive's grave, when, by the timely use of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup the pain can be allayed and the danger avoided. This syrup is pleasant to the taste and unsurpassed for relieving, healing and curing all affections of the throat and lungs, coughs, colds, bronchitis, etc., etc.

Mr. Frank Lockwood, Q.C., M.P., presiding at the Sheffield, England, quarter sessions, lately paid tribute to Mr. W. S. Gilbert as follows: "He was not going to send the prisoner back to penal servitude for the principle he had followed had been to make the punishment as far as possible commensurate with the offense."

The towel's slang—"Wipe off your chin!"

No woman can lace herself so tight as a man can drink himself.

Young man, never hug a delusion—unless pretty girls are very scarce.

"Two weds are better than one," as the Mormon elder remarked.

—The great lung healer is found in that excellent medicine sold as Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membrane of the throat and air passages, and is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, pain or soreness in the chest, bronchitis, etc. It has cured many when supposed to be far advanced in consumption.

One of the lost arts—the one that the little boy stole from the bakery.

"Speech is silver." If you don't believe it read the dollar-ous proceedings of congress.

The man who came within an ace of being frozen to death must have had a deuce of a cold time.

Waiter—"What'll you have, sir—soup?" Man at table—"Supe? No, sir; I'm a professional."

People down south who are enjoying tobogganning should soap the slides with banana skins.

"O'er me pour the stream of Lethe," wails a despairing poet. A little soap might go well, too, if Lethe has no objections.

—Pleasant as syrup; nothing equals it as a worm medicine; the name is Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator. The greatest worm destroyer of the age.

A great many lawyers in New York city are said to be suffering from a lack of clients. A great many clients are suffering from a surplus of lawyers.

"Hello! old man! How did you come to fall down?" "Huh! Couldn't fall in any other direction, could I?"

The man who throws ashes on his sidewalk is the sort of a man who, when he is transformed into an angel, won't have any of the ashes blown into his golden trumpet.

—Give Holloway's Corn Cure a trial. It removed ten corns from one pair of feet without any pain. What it has done once it will do again.

"We had a strike up at our house last night," said a lad to a comrade. "What was the matter? Help struck?" "No, ma struck pa for a sealskin sacque."

Said a country girl on visiting her city cousin and being invited to witness "La Grande Duchesse" at the Chicago opera house: "Is opera bouffe anything like a donation party."

—A complete revolution in the state of a stomach harassed by dyspepsia is caused by using Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery, or great blood purifier, a medicine specially adapted to renew healthful activity in that organ and in those which most closely co-operate with it, the bowels and liver. Easy digestion, an increase of appetite and a free secretion of bile, mark the radical change which it produces.

"Father," said a newly married youth, "I've discovered that my wife is a fool." "Say nothing, my son, say nothing about it, and everybody will think you are happily matched."

"Father, what is a phenomenon?" asked little Johnny McSwilligen, as he was looking over his spelling lesson last night. "A phenomenon, Johnny, is a man who never says 'Chestnut' when you tell him a joke," was the reply.

—C. A. Livingstone, Plattsville, Ont., says: I have much pleasure in recommending Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil, from having used it myself, and having sold it for some time. In my own case I will say for it that it is the best preparation I have ever tried for rheumatism.

A Glorious Climate.

Frost and thaw.
Snow, rain, hail,
Balmy, raw
Calm and gale.

Not Excusable.

—In the winter season ministers and congregations are disturbed by incessant coughing. Were there no remedy for this it would be excusable, but it is not so when a 25 cent bottle of "Hallamore's Expectorant" will obviate the trouble. All druggists sell it or can procure it for you from Lyman Bros., wholesale agents, Toronto. edx

Dropsy, Gravel, Bright's Disease.

—These common and dangerous complaints are due to a bad condition of the fluids, unhealthy changes in the blood and secretions—the liver being equally at fault with the kidneys. Regulate these conditions with Burdock Blood Bitters, one of the best system renovators known to medical science. 246

Nothing Succeeds Like Success.

—This is fully exemplified in the increasing demand for "Hallamore's Expectorant." Although an old remedy, it has but recently been advertised, and the success of the venture is most gratifying, as the sale of this famous cough mixture steadily increases. Why is it? Because it fulfils the expectations of those who use it. edx

A Cure for Drunkenness.

—Opium, morphine and kindred habits. Valuable treatise sent free. The medicine may be given in a cup of tea or coffee, and without the knowledge of the person taking it, if so desired. Send two 3c. stamps for full particulars and testimonials of those who have been cured. Address M. V. Luban, agency, 47 Wellington street east, Toronto, Canada. ed

—The stomach is the grand central of the living system, the first organ developed in animal life, and the first to suffer from excesses. Regulate its diseased action by Burdock Blood Bitters, which restores health to the stomach, bowels, liver, kidneys and blood. 246

—Medicines there are of many a kind,
All claim to be the best extant,
But king above them all I find,
Is "Hallamore's Expectorant."
My father took it days gone by;
My brothers, sisters for it cry,
It's safe and pleasant, always sure
The worst of coughs to quickly cure.
Try it and be convinced at once,
Its merits prove, here! now's your chance.
Your druggist keeps it; always will;
Take it and save a doctor's bill. edx

Debility.

—Perhaps you are weak and weary, or run down, get tired with slight exertion, feel faint and dizzy, or dull and languid, then you need a good tonic regulator to make pure blood circulate, and give you strength. Try Burdock Blood Bitters—it will not fail you. 246

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in different shades at low prices. A fine assortment of Tweeds and Worsteds. Choice Pantings from $3.50 up. Our $5 Pants can't be got elsewhere at $6.50. Come and convince yourself. A fit guaranted or money refunded. All work done on the premises in latest style. NOTE THE ADDRESS, 136

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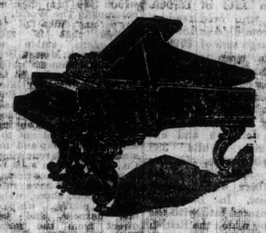

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