

VISITING A TURK'S HAREM.

One Who Has Only Nine Wives But Is Not Yet Through Marrying.

Mrs. M. A. Crooley, of Indianapolis, Ind., wife of the pastor of the Central Universalist church, while in Turkey recently—a country which she has visited 20 times and more—enjoyed the rare experience of being admitted to the luxurious harem of a wealthy official, says the Indianapolis Sentinel.

"The first thing to do," said Mrs. Crooley, "if one wishes to see the inside of a harem, is to secure a permit, or, as foreigners like to call it, an invitation. Knowing that we would be welcomed to the home of the official, our whole party went there in carriages. I sent in my card by the servant at the door, and it was really the head of the household. By and by word was sent back by the servants to admit us, and we were brought into a reception-room.

"Our party consisted only of women, as, of course, no men are allowed to enter the harems. In some homes eunuchs are employed to take charge, but only female servants were used in this home. While we were admiring the beautiful furniture, the coverings of which were of silk, heavily embroidered, the official's wives came in to meet us. There were nine of them, and they ranged from a woman apparently 20 years old to the last wife, a beautiful dark girl of 16. They were dressed in the loose, flowing robes of their country, the lower part of the costume consisting of wide trousers gathered at the ankle. The trousers were so full, however, as to have the appearance of skirts.

"Our clothes at once attracted the attention of the women, as we were, I believe, the first party of foreigners they had ever really come in contact with, although they must have seen others as they passed through the streets in their closed carriages. They took off our bonnets and examined them curiously, and we had to explain how all our garments were made and worn. Any piece of jewelry at once caught their attention, and in return they showed us their ornaments, many of them of great value.

"Through an interpreter, a lady I had remembered to take with us, we conversed quite freely and pleasantly. It is the custom whenever foreigners call on the native women to take them presents, and we had come prepared in this respect. We gave them beautiful flowers, bright colored ribbons and other gay presents we knew women would like to have, for, strangely enough, feminine likes in regard to pretty things seem to be the same the world over. Our gifts made them happy and they treated us with the greatest courtesy.

WON BY THE BUTTONHOLE.

Weighty Problem at Issue Before a Learned Court of Law and Now Settled.

Once upon a time a case was brought before a learned judge, in which the question at issue was as to whether the button was made for the buttonhole or the buttonhole for the button, says the Boston Transcript.

TRICKS OF CAR PORTERS.

How the People in Sleepers Are Awakened by Them Early in the Morning.

"I'm going to tell you something that nine out of ten men who travel do not know," said a sleeping car porter on a train coming into Chicago the other day, relates the Tribune.

SEA SERPENT BILL.

Tales Told of a Pheasant Swearer Who Sailed Once on the Old Bark Madagascar.

"Speaking of cussin'" said the old salt, according to the New York Sun, "I think the most profane man I ever heard in my life was a man called Sea Serpent Bill that I sailed with once in the old bark Madagascar, from San Francisco to Hong-Kong, and then around here to New York.

FOR THE BUSY HOUSEWIFE.

Hints and Helps for Those Who Are Desirous of Learning Something New.

To wash your table silver without scratching, spread a cup towel in the bottom of the dishpan, before placing the silver in it. But few pieces should be washed at one time. A little milk added to the water is excellent to keep the silver bright, says the Boston Budget.

Fresh, green vegetables should be cooked as soon after they are gathered as possible; those containing sugar, as corn and peas, lose some of their sweetness by standing. Wash thoroughly in cold water, but unless wilted do not soak. It is better not to prepare fresh, green vegetables until they are needed, but if they must be prepared some time before cooking cover with cold water. Most vegetables should be put into fresh, rapidly boiling, salted water, and if cooked in uncovered vessels they will retain a better color, as high heat destroys their color. In no instance permit them to steep in the warm water, as this toughens them, and in many cases destroys both color and flavor. The salt in the water hardens it, and it also sets the color in the vegetable.

The old-fashioned shortcake, made with a rich biscuit crust, has, in the minds at least of those accustomed to it in their youth, never been excelled, but the art seems to be in danger of extinction among the younger generation. The great difference between the old and the new ways is in the preparation of the fruit, the modern method being to place the whole fruit in layers on the split cakes and to serve them with cream. Old housekeepers, on the contrary, put the hulled berries in a bowl before making the crust, chop them with a silver knife and cover them with sugar. When the cakes (they are baked in layer tins) come from the oven they are split and the fruit is piled on the cut side of each, one being piled above the other. The balance of the fruit and juice is served from a bowl on the table as a sauce for the shortcake. If plain or whipped cream is to be used instead of the juicy fruit mixture, it will be better not to cut the fruit until just before it is put on the cakes, and not to sweeten it until afterward. Recipes for the biscuit paste can be found on all baking-powder cans. The dough should be rolled into sheets about half an inch thick. Cut it while hot with a hot bread knife. Individual shortcakes may be made by making baking-powder biscuits somewhat larger and thinner than the usual kind, splitting each and preparing it in the same way as the large cake.

MIXED MARRIAGES.

Number of Weddings of Whites with Negroes Said to Be Increasing of Recent Years in New York.

Mixed marriages—those of whites and negroes—have increased in New York city in the past five years. In 1895 there were 729 such marriages, 269 negroes having married white women and 360 colored women having been married to white men. Last year there were 1,445, in which 920 negro women were married to white men and 925 negroes married white women, says the New York Sun.

One man whose position has enabled him to make continued and thorough observations of conditions in the lives of the other half of New York's population has this to say on the subject: "I have met scores of these mixed couples, and so far as the principals are concerned, I do not believe that they are, as a rule, either more happy or more miserable than their neighbors who have wedded like with like. They have as few squabbles and as few divorces, proportionately, as couples that are wholly white or wholly black.

"The children, however, are not so fortunate. It is difficult for the little tots to place themselves. They are outcasts from both white and colored flocks, and when members of the same family are ranged on different sides of the color line, as is frequently the case, their situation is the more pitiable. "My observation has further taught me that a colored man makes a better husband for a white woman, than a white man for a colored woman. The reason of this is not far to seek. The former seems to feel that he has been honored beyond measure by being accepted by a white woman, and he will willingly work his fingers to the bone to support her and her children in good style.

"The white man, on the other hand, figures that he has degraded himself by marrying a colored woman, and he vents his displeasure over the situation by letting his wife bear the burden of supporting the entire family. It is such despicable fellows as these that are at the root of the trouble whenever the woe arising from a mixed marriage are aired in court.

"I have frequently heard people wonder how these marriages are brought about, and express surprise that the two races should ever become so intimately acquainted as to venture into matrimony. When you consider the social conditions of the city you will find that there is nothing surprising about it.

"So far as I can find out, nine-tenths of these mixed marriages result from co-employment of the races. The selection of servants without regard to racial characteristics is common in most city families and public houses, and men and women of all shades of black and white are thus thrown together. If this close acquaintance reveals congeniality of temper, the question of color is eliminated from the matrimonial discussions, and for the time, at least, each appears to lose sight of the other's complexion.

"Another thing worth noting is that the white partner in these combinations is usually a foreigner. People from other countries have not the same aversion to the negro that is implanted in the American breast, and the man and woman new to our customs see nothing out of the way in a union with a person with a swarthy skin. If you come down to statistics you will see that the number of English people married to colored people in New York exceeds any other nationality two to one."

Panic Story from England. Vermicelli cut into little letters is a thing commonly found in modern soup. But it is not often that it saves a man from financial disaster, as it did in the following case. An American visiting England was dining in London the other day during the height of the Wall street boom. The talk turned on the subject, and the American, who had bought largely at high figures, maintained, against the general opinion that the great prices rested on a solid business basis. Suddenly he saw in the spoonful of soup which he was raising to his lips four letters, forming the word "Sell." Somewhat shaken by this, for he was a man of a superstitious turn of mind, he went on with his soup in a troubled mood, until six of the small white capitals remained floating in his plate. They spelled out the word "Unload." Hastily rising he excused himself upon a plea of indisposition, and took a cab to the nearest open telegraph office. He called to his broker, ordering the immediate sale of all he held in railways. As New York time is five hours behind our own, the thing was done before the market closed. The next day the panic began. He had got out at the top market.—London News.

STRIKING FUNERALS.

Two Events at Seattle Between Which Was Decided Contrast.

One Was the Pagan Rites Over Jan Yot, an Officer in Chinese Masonic Order, the Other Was Christian Burial of Japanese Woman.

Two events that attracted considerable attention in Seattle recently were a Chinese funeral of Jan Yot, an officer in high standing in the Chinese masonic order, and the funeral of Mrs. Furuya, wife of a prominent Japanese merchant.

The first of these events was particularly interesting to the great number of newcomers in the city from the eastern states, who had never witnessed a Chinese funeral. A small temple was erected in the street and the body was placed under it buried in flowers. On tables surrounding the temple were proflations enough to feed a small army. These were later conveyed to the cemetery and arranged about the grave, that the devil may stop to feast, while the spirit of the dead speeds on to its final resting place unmolested. The Seattle Military band led the procession, followed by two Chinese bands. Next came the hearse drawn by four spirited black horses, then the pall-bearers on horseback and the banner-carriers all gayly decorated. The widow supported by two Chinese women walked until exhausted, and was then placed in a carriage. Nearly every back in the city was engaged and followed in line.

Quite different was the second, the beautiful burial services of another from the orient, a daughter of the Flowery kingdom. Not with pagan custom and celestial pomp, as in the first case, but strictly American and Christian in all arrangements. Over 300 Japanese, all dressed in the regulation black, were present. Forty-four bands were engaged, and elaborate floral pieces covered the casket. "Nearer, My God, to Thee" was the opening hymn, and all services were in the Japanese language. The devotion and tenderness of the Japanese toward their womankind was very apparent.

GIRLS PAY CHURCH DEBT.

Earn Money in Various Ways—One Girl Washes Father's Pet Pig and Sells Kisses.

Young women members of the Epworth league connected with the Methodist church of Mattawan, N. J., several weeks ago, promised each to earn \$1 in some way and contribute it toward the liquidation of the church debt. Each told the other night of her experience in earning the dollar. Some of the young women are among the smart set of the town.

Miss Ida Lisk almost convulsed the audience when she stated that she was paid 50 cents for washing her father's pet pig. She said: "I took a broom and pail of water and soon had the pig as clean as a whistle. The animal seemed to enjoy the wash and I did not mind the experience. Then I earned the most of the other half dollar by selling kisses at five cents apiece. This part I did not mind either."

Two other young women told how they played an organ about the streets. One ground out the music while the other collected the money in a tin cup. Their appeals for aid ended with: "May your path be strewn with roses and your children bear pig noses."

Some sold flowers from door to door, another stole vegetables from her grandfather's garden and sold them, and pleaded that the fact that the vegetables were stolen for money that was used for the church was not to be considered wrong. Several ministers in the audience smiled at the argument.

Kissed The American Jockey. American jockeys have been much in evidence at Paris the past week. Young Hieff was publicly kissed by Consuelo, duchess of Manchester, in recognition of his equestrian prowess.

Freeman has accepted an invitation from Grand Duke Michael to ride in Russia. Tod Sloan has demonstrated that he isn't a back number, for he has beaten Charron in a preliminary automobile race. Sloan contends that the keenness of eye and cleverness of hand which lead a race horse to victory do likewise with an automobile.

Henry Ridgway, Maurice Untermyer, John Munro, Walter McEwen, Alec Howe, Gen. Winslow, and all the Americans attending the races made a sensation by appearing, without exception, in white duck trousers. Spencer Eddy, before leaving for London, issued a decree to that effect and all obeyed.

LANES ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

Safe Steamer Routes Have Been Established Under Plans Proposed by the Navy Department.

Safe steamer lanes across the Pacific ocean have been established, under the plan proposed by the navy department a year ago, says a New York Herald special from Washington. These lanes are 30 miles wide. Reports received by Capt. C. C. Todd, hydrographer of the navy, from 60 commanders of warships, government transporta and merchant steamers, show that not a single menace to navigation exists within the limits of the tracts plotted by the department.

The lanes across the Pacific connect San Francisco with Honolulu, Guam, and Manila; San Francisco with Nagasaki, Puget sound ports with Nagasaki and Honolulu and Guam with Nagasaki. Exporters and steamship men on the Pacific coast purpose to use their influence to secure the adoption by congress of Rear Admiral Bradford's recommendation for a comprehensive survey of the Pacific ocean. Capt. Todd, in his annual report, will strongly ask that congress be urged to make an appropriation to fit out the ship to make the survey, and Rear Admiral Bradford, chief of equipment, will incorporate this recommendation in his report.

Naval attaches of Germany, Great Britain and Japan have suggested the advisability of the participation of their governments. If these should act with the United States it is pointed out that the ocean could be divided and each nation could survey that section which is especially important to its commercial interests or in the vicinity of its insular possessions.

RECRUITING NEARLY ENDED.

Adjutant General Corbin Issues Statement Showing That New Regiments Are Rapidly Filling.

Adj. Gen. Corbin has completed a statement for the secretary of war, showing the result of recruiting for the new infantry and cavalry regiments authorized by the last army bill. The statement shows that practically all the regiments have completed their quota of men and but few more enlistments will be required before the new army will be filled. The figures obtained by Gen. Corbin do not show the result of recruiting for the last week, but telegraphic reports received indicate that recruiting is progressing so rapidly all the regiments will be filled within a short time. The Eleventh cavalry, at Fort Myer and Fort Ethan Allen, has now 915 men; the Twelfth cavalry, at Fort Sam Houston, Clark and Barks, 975; Thirteenth cavalry, Fort Meade, 201; Fourteenth cavalry, Fort Leavenworth and Riley, 975; Fifteenth cavalry, Presidio and the Philippines, 1,020; Twenty-sixth infantry, Philippine islands, 1,284, the full strength required; Twenty-seventh infantry, Fort McPherson and Plattburg barracks, 629; Twenty-ninth infantry, Fort Sheridan, 1,226; Thirtieth infantry, Philippine islands, 1,262; Eleventh battery, Willett's Point, 401. In addition to the 535 men reported at Vancouver barracks for the Twenty-eighth infantry, telegraphic reports show 500 men more on hand to add to this regiment, making a total of 1,126.

FLOCK TO SEE THAIS MUMMY.

Remains of the Celebrated Courtisan of the Orient Are on Exhibition at Paris.

The great Parisian attraction of the week has been the exhibition at the Guimet museum of the body of Thais, the celebrated courtisan of the orient. Society women, actresses, demi-mondaines, even young girls tied to their mothers' apron strings, have flocked to see the well-preserved remains of Thais.

Margaret Robinson, the actress, and sister of Anna, might be seen cheek by jowl with Cleo de Merode, while Sybil Sanderson looked maternally by the side of Rejane. Maurice Untermyer personally conducted a party of friends, and his clear voice could be heard explaining to them as follows: "Thais was once protected by the Greek poet Menander, then by Alexander, king of Macedonia. Finally she married Ptolemy, king of Egypt, to whom she bore two children."

Even President and Mme. Loubet went to see Thais, and close beside Mme. Loubet stood the venerable Mrs. Hannibal Hamelin.

The richly embroidered dresses of Thais are likewise shown, and Mme. Cassine expressed the belief that a Parisian beauty of to-day could not compare with her of whom the whole world talked in the days of Menander.

In a Terrible Coal Eater. The Naval and Military Record, commenting on the three weeks' trial of the British turbine torpedo boat destroyer Viper, which was conducted under regular service conditions, and during which she developed a speed of 30 1/2 knots and was pronounced capable of doing 31, says her coal consumption was enormous at top speed, which, the paper adds, militates against the plan which the Dover-Calais company is now maturing, to build two turbine channel steamers and reduce the time of crossing between England and France to 35 minutes. The Viper's trial was pronounced to be completely satisfactory. Although she was handled by an inexperienced crew, she showed a remarkable immunity from breaking down. The Viper was steady in all weathers.

New Use for Phonograph. Babies are now sent to sleep by a lullaby trilled forth by the phonograph.