

THE CZARINA'S ALLOWANCE

Why Her Highness' Decision in Regard to Tobacco Was Speedily Changed.

Some time ago the czarina, who is a very philanthropic woman, made up her mind that the lavish use of tobacco in Russia was doing harm.

A few days passed and her imperial majesty needed some money. It did not come, even after she had sent a confidential servant to the treasury.

"There must be a mistake, your imperial majesty. Two weeks ago you prohibited the use of tobacco in the court, and so great is your influence and so deep the love for you among the people that the sales of the weed dropped down to a fraction of what formerly was the case, and the internal revenue receipts became less than the expenses.

The following week, so the story goes, the rule was relaxed, and the czarina's sudden poverty vanished as if by magic.

"BILL BACK-ACHER."

A Story of Hard Field Work in India with General Gatacre.

An Indian correspondent of M. A. P. tells a little story of Gen. Gatacre. He was in command of a district in India, and there had been a field day.

There were long marching, forced marching and mimic hill warfare in full field order, and Tommy awaited for hours.

Some all the way to the end, and disheveled and footsore, the troops marched back into camp.

"Well, Bill, seeing how it's all over, I think I shall just drop into the canteen and have a quart of ale."

"Do, Emery," said the dust-begrimed Tommy. "Well, Emery, I shall just go and have a bit of a wash, and then I think I'll go for a walk."

The tale went round many a table in the land of exile, and no one who knew Gatacre failed to laugh outright when they heard it.

Tommy thinks the world of Sir William, however; his only objection is that "he does make 'em work" wherefore hath he been nicknamed "Backacher" by his men.

COATS THAT LAST A CENTURY.

Ab Sin in His Native Land Highly Prizes a Venerable Garment.

Gentlemen who take delight in sartorial changes as frequent almost as those of the moon might learn a lesson from John Chinaman, with whom, even though he be well off, it is felicity to wear his grandfather's coat.

Not only is the common-looking, shapeless blouse of his ancestor prized because it is his ancestor's, but because of its intrinsic value.

The clothing usually worn by the Chinese is of the purest silk and costs anywhere from \$100 to \$200 a suit.

As a nation the Chinese object to wearing clothing of any other kind, and centuries of experiment have taught them how best to make up the costly caterpillar thread into the most durable form.

On this account the Chinese dress, though of purer material, has none of the sheen usually associated with silk, a peculiarity which has resulted in the erroneous ideas as to their composition.

All the garments are made in China and are only exported for the personal use of celebrities in foreign countries.

Owing to their cost, however, they are only purchased at long intervals, each garment being of so durable a character that they are handed down to the third and even the fourth generation.

DRIFTWOOD OF ALASKA.

A Deposit of Logs That Have Come from Japan, China and India.

There is an extraordinary deposit of driftwood on the coast of Alaska, some 1,200 or 1,500 miles northwest of Seattle.

A constant deposit of logs and driftwood has been going on for hundreds of years, and it is due to the phenomena of the tides, the Pacific gulf stream, the ocean currents and the peculiar formations of the shore lines at that point.

According to the Chicago Times-Herald, logs and timbers are readily identified there as having come from Japan, China, India and other localities of Asia, as well as from California, Washington and other parts of the American continent.

There are fine logs of camphor tree, the mahogany, the redwood and the pine. Some of these from the state of Washington bear the names of the men who felled the trees and the sawmills for which they were destined.

Some logs eight feet in diameter are often seen there, and some entire trees 150 feet long, evidently uplified by the roots during some terrible tempest.

The newer logs are without bark, and they are as hard as stone, due to their long immersion in salt water.

RIFLES FOR SHARPSHOOTERS.

The Present Infantry Weapon Is Not Well Designed for Long Range.

The Napoleonic maxim that "fire is everything" is truer in these days of smokeless powder and long-range weapons than ever before, says Cassier's. An expert shot is no longer blinded by his comrade's smoke; nor is his position revealed by his own smoke when firing from cover.

Ten sharpshooters nowadays are worth more than 50 bunglers with the rifle. The present infantry weapon, however, is not well designed for sharpshooters.

If the sharpshooter is required to use regular infantry ammunition his rifle should differ from a common musket in the following particulars:

Its barrel should be thick throughout, tapering slowly toward the muzzle. On a telescope-sighted gun it need not be over 24 inches long.

This restricted length, together with the amount of metal in the barrel, would give it stiffness, would keep it from excessive heating, would neutralize recoil, and would enable the man to hold steadily when shooting from hip rest, which is the standard of all offhand positions and as practical in the field as on the range.

It is a mistake to use high powers in a rifle telescope. They restrict the field vision, lessen the illumination and magnify errors of holding. So far as aiming is concerned, a power of four diameters draws a man 1,000 yards distant to within 250 yards of the shooter, and this is close enough for murderous accuracy.

TOBACCO HEART.

It Is Not Alone Users of the Weed Who Become Victims of This Affection.

"You have," said the physician, "the tobacco heart." The patient made answer: "Doctor, I never smoked but once, and that was when I was a boy."

This happened in Germantown, says the Philadelphia Record. Both men laughed, and the physician prepared to examine the patient again, so as to make another diagnosis.

After a half hour of hard work the tobacco heart still seemed to resemble the man's disease, and the physician said: "What do you do for a living?" The man replied: "I am a tobaccoist."

"Well, then, of course, you've got the tobacco heart, whether you're a smoker or not," said the physician. "All day you breathe in tobacco. The dust of it fills your lungs, circulates with your blood all over your body, and is digested with your food. I have had a number of cases such as yours, and I prescribe eight hours a day in the fresh air. You'll find it hard to follow this prescription. Away from the tobacco-laden air of your shop you will have the uneasy, restless longing to get back to it which the smoker after a few hours of abstinence, has for a cigar. That is strange, but you'll find it true. You have unconsciously acquired the tobacco-breathing habit, and it's a habit harder, I believe, to break than the smoking habit itself."

ENGLAND'S BLACK ALLIES.

South African Basutos Have Adopted Civilized Customs and Manners.

The South African Basutos would be a difficult nation to suppress and bring under control again if once armed, says Collier's Weekly. They are a warlike and superior Kaffir tribe, numbering over 220,000, and have adopted more of the civilized manners and ways of the white settlers than any other of the South African natives.

Fully 50,000 of them are said to be adherents of the different Christian missionaries who have labored among them. They have never been disarmed, and in an emergency they would prove a formidable foe in the field.

The paramount chief of the day is Lerethodi, a man of great force and energy, and highly civilized. He is the direct successor of Mosheh, the famous chief who built up the Basuto kingdom out of the fugitive clans that were driven southward in the first decade of the present century.

The English had a clash with the Basutos in 1845 after a victory over the Boers. The Basutos were severely defeated in the opening campaign, and before a larger reinforcement of English could be dispatched to the scene Mosheh prudently sued for terms of peace.

This wily move saved the Basutos from an exterminating war with the English and made the two nations live peaceably together for upward of half a century. The English, in fact, became their protectors and advisers, and when the war between the Basutos and the Boers of the Orange Free State broke out, ten years later, the paramount chief, Mosheh, appealed to the governor of Cape Colony, who interfered and settled the disputed boundary question.

This was repeated again in 1865, when the Boers made a supreme effort to annihilate the Basutos, whom they accused of stealing their cattle. This time the English declared the Basutos English subjects, and the Free State had to settle the matter with the British high commissioner.

One finds a difficulty in associating Central Asia with the idea of a health resort, says the London Lancet. The games of Bokhara, Samarkand and Tashkend call to mind pictures of a country the past history of which was one of nameless horrors and the recent history of which is one of reluctant submission after a bloody war to the overwhelming might of Russia, which only succeeds in keeping peace by free use of the iron hand barely concealed under the velvet glove of civilized rule.

The climate one is apt to think of as one of burning heat in summer, alternating with arctic cold in winter. All these preconceived opinions are probably equally wrong. Central Asia is settled and as safe under civilized rule as India, and as regards climate, though the plains suffer from extremes, there are said to be hill stations admirably suited for health resorts. Such a place is Bokhara, 3,500 feet above sea level, in the hills, not far from Samarkand, where the mortality is very low and chest diseases are almost unknown. Other places in the neighborhood are equally favored.

The winter is mild, and spring begins in March. The sky is constantly clear and the air is of great purity. The climate conditions are compared with those of Greece or Italy, but are more continental in character. Next year a military sanitarium is to be established in this spot.

WOMAN'S MOST WINSOME AGE.

Thirty Is Considered the Time of Her Most Winsome and Captivating Beauty.

Why do women hesitate to tell their age? By common consent it is regarded as very rude and boorish to ask a woman a categorical question regarding the number of her birthdays. Yet there shall be no diffidence on the point, and reticence on the subject is hard to explain. Except for some reason connected with business which may find in accumulating years a handicap, a man is usually very open about his age and as ready to proclaim it as his wife and sisters are to conceal theirs. Probably the feeling in the woman when matrimony was the ordinary woman's only desirable goal, and when as she grew older her chances of finding a mate dimmed perceptibly, says Collier's Weekly.

The situation has so entirely changed, and spinsterhood has become so inviting that we should expect to discover an alteration in the manners of women on this point and to find them quite candid as to their claims to maturity or the reverse. Fifty years to-day looks as old did a score of years ago. Thirty—always a very winsome age, the age of woman's most captivating beauty—is not now to be distinguished in freshness and bloom from 25. Outdoor life is doing for women what nothing else can do—making them beautiful and keeping them young.

Migration of Swallows.

Swallows migrate to Central America and the southern part of Mexico. They like it pretty warm. Early in March they begin to appear in the southern states, but they seldom get far north until the latter part of April. The robins don't care for such a warm climate, and very few of them get as far south as Mexico.

Equestrian Travel.

At the commencement of Iberia college, in Madison county, Ky., 1,500 saddle horses were picketed on the grounds.

Bulletin Financier.

Mardi, 28 mars 1900.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes COMPTOIR D'EGANGES (OLMARINE) and various market rates.

MARCHE MONETAIRE.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Lists various financial instruments and their prices.

CHANGE.

Table with 2 columns: Location and Exchange Rate. Lists rates for various international locations.

ACTIONS ET BONS.

Table with 2 columns: Company Name and Share Price. Lists various stocks and bonds.

CENTRAL ASIA.

Preconceived Notions About It All Wrong—Good Health Resort.

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Bulletin Commercial.

Mardi, 28 mars 1900.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists various commodities and their market prices.

MARCHE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists local market prices for various goods.

MARCHE DE NEW-YORK.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists New York market prices.

MARCHE DE LIVERPOOL.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists Liverpool market prices.

MARCHE DE HAVRE.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists Havre market prices.

MARCHE DE PARIS.

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MARCHE DE BRUXELLES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists Brussels market prices.

MARCHE DE LONDRES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists London market prices.

MARCHE DE BOMBAY.

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MARCHE DE CALCUTTA.

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MARCHE DE SHANGHAI.

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MARCHE DE HONGKONG.

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MARCHE DE MANILA.

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MARCHE DE CEBU.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists Cebu market prices.

MARCHE DE YOKOHAMA.

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MARCHE DE KOBE.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists Kobe market prices.

MARCHE DE OSAKA.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists Osaka market prices.

PROVISIONS.

AU BOARD OF TRADE.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists various provisions and their prices.

MARCHE AUX BESTIAUX.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists prices for various types of livestock.

MARCHE AUX FARINES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists prices for various grades of flour.

MARCHE AUX GRAINS.

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MARCHE AUX LEGUMES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists prices for various vegetables.

MARCHE AUX FRUITS.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists prices for various fruits.

MARCHE AUX HERBES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists prices for various herbs and spices.

MARCHE AUX OULES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists prices for various oils.

MARCHE AUX SALES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists prices for various salts.

MARCHE AUX CERELES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists prices for various cereals.

MARCHE AUX LEGUMES SECHES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists prices for various dried vegetables.

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AVIS DE SUCCESSIONS.

Succession de Elix Frenelly. COUR CIVILE DE DISTRICT POUR LA

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