

INSECT-EATING MEN.

Whole Nations Who Greedily Devour Creeping Insects.

The insect-eaters here referred to are not occasional persons of depraved tastes, but whole nations, who consume insects on so large a scale as to raise them to a regu article of trade. Locusts are an article of food in parts of Africa, Arabia, and Persia, of such importance that the price of provisions is influenced by the quantity of the dried insects in hand. The Tuaregs of Africa esteem them highly, and a single individual will eat as many as three hundred of them—raw, roasted, or stewed—at a meal. Cakes of crushed locusts are a delicacy. Boiled locusts are appreciated in Barmah. Termites and ants are the next most important food insects. The egg-laden bodies of the females of Altha cephalotes are industriously collected by Indians in South America, and the taste of their roasted and salted bodies has been appreciated even by Europeans. The African negroes can hardly get enough of termites, which are eaten fried at the Cape, and in other regions are made into cakes. Roasted termites taste somewhat like marrow or sweet cream. The seventeen-year locust has been eaten in North America, and is said to have been used in soap-making. Cakes are made in Mexico with the eggs of two kinds of water-bugs. A cake made in Fezzan of insect eggs is described as having the taste of caviare. The Romans were fond of larvae which they called *cosus*. A favorite dish is prepared in Jamaica from the larvae of a beetle that lives in the trunks of palm-trees. Another wood insect is preserved in sugar by the Chinese and Malays, and a liquor is made with the addition of some water from a beetle in Mexico. Caterpillars are eaten in Australia and at the Cape at the risk of woeful pains in the stomach, and even spiders, abhorred by every other race, are eaten by the Hotentots and New Caledonians, with the same liability. Worms are accepted as food by very few people. A kind of grub is collected and eaten in Brazil, a nereid worm in Samoa, and a reed-worm by the Aomosi of Japan. The Australians around Port Adelaide are said to have lived exclusively on worms and mollusks, while they abhorred beef. Some persons in Naples eat a tape-worm, a parasite of the carp, fried in oil, and call it by the name of macaroni piattini. Sea-urchins form a quite important item in the cookery of some lands, and are popular in some of the Mediterranean districts of Europe. Vestiges of them are found among the remains of feasts of Pompeii, and 100,000 dozen of them are still sold in the markets of Marseilles every year. They, with holothurians, form important items in the food consumption of China and Japan, where the people rarely see our butcher's meat. The holothuria fishery is carried on extensively in Japan from April to August. The "catch" is consumed fresh on the spot, or is prepared and packed for the Chinese market. Even the Medusa, which no other animal, so far as known, will eat, is sought for by the Chinese, and used as a dried and salted meat.

"Scupperd" in Camp.

"Scupperd" is a word which I had never met with till I came to Suakim, and its horrible significance is a new experience to British troops. To be "scupperd" means here being hacked to pieces in your tent while asleep. How the Haden-dowas do it nobody but they themselves can tell. Our sentries cannot see these savages. Once past our pickets the redoubts cannot fire on them. On the sand their feet fall without a sound. The nights are of extraordinary darkness, more over, and they are experts in all the treacheries of warfare. Silent as shadows, they are terribly swift in massacre, and the ground they travel over is murderous beyond description. Ravines so deep that horsemen cannot pass unseen along them ambuscade our whole front, while streaks and patches of thick brush superfluously offer continuous lines of covert in every direction to a foe that needs no such help to concealment. Crawling along on all fours, they traverse the space between them and their victims with the patient caution of wild beasts stalking prey. They reach the doomed tent. For the sake of the sea-breeze the doorway is open, and the next instant the murderer is standing by the sleeping soldier's side. He feels a hand pass over his body and he starts. A cry is rising to his lips. It is strangled in his throat by a groan of pain, and before the gallant fellow can even warn his comrades the fierce spear is driven home through his body, the heavy two-handed sword has fallen across him. But the tent is alarmed. There is no time to lose! Slashing this way and that the murderers stab and hack with the fury of fiends, and then as the camp starts to its feet in clamour they are off. Not a sound betrays their passing. There is no trace of blood to tell of retribution. They are gone—back into the villainous gullies, back into the scattered brush; and next we can imagine them sitting to refresh themselves outside our line of redoubts—to listen gleefully to the storm they have raised—the bugles telling the old tale of murder completed and the murderers gone, the aimless volleys of rifles, the din of voices, the impotent utterances of our indignant guns roaring for an impossible vengeance. Now, should such a tragedy as this have been possible? The authorities, when I venture to say it should not be possible, have but one reply—that absolute security from such accomplished assassins cannot be expected. We have had daily warning of the desperate courage and craft of these spearmen, and yet we have nightly shown that we will not learn by experience. If no other means can be devised, the simple process of making half a regiment stand to its arms, rifles unloaded, inside of the tent, to guard the other half for the six dangerous hours of night (taking three hours alternately) would make massacre impos-

sible and retribution certain? Or is not the example of the Indian contingent worth imitation? They refused to lie in their tents and be stabbed and hacked about, so they have traced a ditch along their front, and when the Haden-dowas came up last night to assassinate them they found the whole line manned, and got well peppered for their pains, leaving, at any rate, one corpse in acknowledgment of the reception they got.

Herat and the Murghab Valley.

It is an easy matter to give every detail of the present condition of the Murghab valley, but the difficulty is to realize what this beautiful vale was in its days of prosperity, when it was inhabited and all under cultivation. Now it would be like judging of a beautiful landscape after a tornado has swept over it. Devastation has here accomplished a complete ruin. What it was we can only imagine from what we know of places in the same region which are similarly situated. Herat has what may be called the Heri Rud, of the Murghab, that is the Heri Rud. Both streams have their birth in the same mountain chain, and both flow on till they are lost in the desert of Turkestan. The valley of Herat has suffered from invasions and wars, but these passed off, and it has always been able to resume something of its old prosperity; at least it never has relapsed into the desert state. The fertility and the richness of this valley have been the theme of historians for many centuries. Even down to our day it has been described as fruitful and beautiful. Conolly, who saw it in 1831, says, "I can imagine nothing like it except perhaps in Italy." A bund, or dam, on the Heri Rud, sends its waters all over the valley, and by this means the fields produce abundantly; the gardens are watered, so that all kinds of vegetables and fruit are plentiful. Melons, peaches, plums, apples, apricots, and the grape in many varieties, are all grown in great profusion. Colonel Maleson, in his late work on Herat, adds, in large letters, the descriptive words regarding it on the title-page, "The Granary and Garden of Central Asia." With such productive wealth Herat has been celebrated for its public buildings. It had palaces and royal gardens or pleasure grounds, splendid mosques, colleges, and its tombs were masterpieces of art. Science and art were cultivated, so that the city was celebrated; so much so that an Eastern saying has the words, "Khorassan is the oyster shell of the world, and Herat is its pearl."

All these results which have made Herat so famous are simply owing to the existence of an ample valley, and a river with a plentiful supply of water flowing through it. These are exactly the conditions we find existing in the Murghab Valley. It is a long and a wide vale, in which there runs a stream of clear water in sufficient quantity to fertilise its whole length. It is fifty or sixty yards wide, and runs deep. In the time of Firdusi it was known as the Shahd Rud, or "the Honey River," and it is still known by this name. It is much larger than the Heri Rud, so far as we saw that stream; but I believe that much of its water is absorbed by the cultivation at Herat. There is every reason to believe that the Murghab Valley had at one time all the productive results which have been mentioned in connection with the Herat Valley. Sir Henry Rawlinson quotes the Bundeksh, which in noticing this district he says has the following:—"In the days of Yim myriad towns and cities were erected on its pleasant and prosperous territory."

Musical Antipathy on the Part of a Cat.

A splendid tabby Tom belonged to my late father-in-law, and was a great pet of his daughter (my wife) when living at home before her marriage. Tab was very fond of his mistress, always selecting her lap, when possible, for his moments of repose. He was so well trained and intelligent that he would follow her about the garden or the adjoining fields, and answer to his name exactly like a dog; and yet, with all his affection, he would not allow my wife to sing or even hum. When she sang he would jump up lash his tail—an unmistakable sign of anger—utter short, sharp "mews" whilst every movement of the animal betrayed extreme uneasiness and annoyance. If the singing did not cease the mews would be extended into a sort of howl or cry, and he would stand on his hind legs and pat the lady's knee with his paw, as a gentle remonstrance. Sometimes he would fling himself down at full length and scratch with his claws at the carpet in the oddest manner. These performances were most amusing. But one day, I am sorry to say, he lost both his patience and his temper, and behaved in a manner highly creditable to a well-bred and intelligent feline. He was asleep in my wife's lap when she began, quite thoughtlessly, to hum a melody. In a moment Tab was sitting erect in her lap, glaring fiercely up into her face and uttering little angry cries. Rather amused than otherwise, my wife continued her humming, when Tab suddenly sprang up and stuck his claws into both sides of her face, below each ear. Seizing his paws and throwing him sharply down, my wife ceased the music, when—being silent—Tab looked up, evidently rather surprised at his rough treatment, whisked his tail about, and then, seeming to think better of it, instantly jumped into her lap again and commenced purring a loud song of—let us hope—repentance for his bad conduct.

Over 200 new doctors were turned out of a New York medical college recently. This looks though their institutions were working on full time to keep pace with the establishment of skating-rinks.

"Brace up!" whispered the hangman to a poor fellow whose heppen cravat he was skillfully adjusting. "Yes, it's easy for you to say that," was the grim reply, "because you are a suspender."

He Spells It Dud.

Prince Bismarck, like Frederick, has converted his ministers and ambassadors into mere clerks, and once he is gone the whole machinery of his government and policy will fall into utter and hopeless confusion. The crown prince is a mere "dud," and Prince Herbert Bismarck is simply the puppet of his hire, who gets on well enough when he is dancing to his piper, but he would come to woful grief if he were himself the director of the foreign policy of the empire. The military despotism under which Germany has groaned for the last twenty years can not possibly last much longer, and it would not have lasted till the present day but for the veneration which is universally felt for the aged kaiser. There will be a crash in Russia before long, and, as in 1848, the infection will at once spread to Germany, which has long been ripening for revolution.—[London Truth.]

A Prize in the Lottery

of life which is usually unappreciated until it is lost, perhaps never to return, is health. What a priceless boon it is, and how we ought to cherish it, that life may not be a worthless blank to us. Many of the diseases that flesh is heir to, and which make life burdensome, such as consumption (scrofula of the lungs) and other scrofulous and blood diseases, find complete cure in Dr. R. V. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" when all other remedies have failed. Dr. Pierce's pamphlet on consumption mailed for two stamps. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

"How can I find out about the young lady to whom I am engaged?" asked a prospective benedict. Has she a younger brother? If so, consult him.

"All Men are Liars."

said David of old. He was probably prompted to make the above remark after trying some unreliable catarrh remedy. Had he been permitted to live until the present day, and tried Dr. Sage's Remedy, he might have had a better opinion of mankind. We claim that no case of catarrh can withstand the magic effects of this wonderful medicine. One trial of it will convince you of its efficacy. By druggists; fifty cents.

Aesthetic philosophical lecturer to his hearers: "People deride skepticism. Can you tell me what skepticism is?" Unfriendly optimist, with idiotic literalness: "I suppose its denying a truth that you don't believe in favor of a lie that you can't believe."

Delicate diseases of either sex, however induced, speedily and permanently cured. Consultation free. Book three (3c.) stamps. World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

The first thing in a boot is the last.

Few people have any idea of the care with which tobacco has to be attended after it is grown. It will imbibe odors of almost any kind if placed near the source of them. A pig sty, for instance, near the place where the planter stores his crops will impart a disagreeable flavor, which no care afterwards will divest it of. Among the many precautions taken to obtain a faultless leaf for the "Myrtle Navy" brand, is to ascertain carefully the methods which every farmer adopts with his crops in the section of Virginia where the "Myrtle Navy" is grown.

Snodkins says, apropos of President Elliot's report, that he believes base ball is a very ancient sport indeed, for the daughter of Cyrus the Great was Atossas.

What an Englishman Wants.

LEEDS,
25 Norwood Crescent,
Victoria Road, Leeds.
21 January, 1884.

Gents: Kindly send me the price of PUTNAM'S PAINLESS CORN EXTRACTOR. I have tried it and found it an admirable remedy. I call every three months upon the best boot dealers in the north of England. I will, if I can profitably, buy and sell it.

Yours truly,
S. DUNN.

Use only Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, props.

The new paper bottles are said to withstand the action of water, wine, and alcohol. It is thought that druggists will be able to furnish them free of charge, just as they provide wrapping paper for dry drugs. The cementing material of the bottles is a mixture of blood, albumen, alum and lime.

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Polson's NERVILINE, the great pain cure is sure pop every time. No need to spend a large sum to get prompt relief from every kind of pain, for 10 cents will purchase a trial bottle. Go to any drug store for it. Large bottles only 25 cents, at all druggists. Nerviline the pain king, cures cramps, headache, neuralgia. An aching tooth, filled with batting saturated with Nerviline, will cease aching within five minutes. Try Nerviline for all kinds of pain. Ten and 25 cents a bottle.

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Catarrh—A New Treatment.

Perhaps the most extraordinary success has been achieved in modern science has been attained by the Dixon Treatment of Catarrh. Out of 2000 patients treated during the past six months, fully ninety per cent. have been cured of this stubborn malady. This is none the less startling when it is remembered that not five per cent. of the patients presenting themselves to the regular practitioner are benefited, while the patent medicines and other advertised cures never record a cure at all. Starting with the claim now generally believed by the most scientific men that the disease is due to the presence of living parasites in the tissues. Mr. Dixon at once adapted his cure to their extermination; this accomplished the catarrh is practically cured, and the permanency is unquestioned, as cures effected by him four years ago are cures still. No one else has ever attempted to cure catarrh in this manner, and no other treatment has ever cured catarrh. The application of the remedy is simple and can be done at home, and the present season of the year is the most favorable for a speedy and permanent cure, the majority of cases being cured at one treatment. Sufferers should correspond with Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON, 300 King-street West, Toronto, Canada, and enclose stamp for their treatise on catarrh.—[Montreal Star.]

The first ingredient in conversation is truth, the next good sense, the third good humor, and the fourth wit.

A. F. 225.

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