

It seems impossible now-a-days to convict a woman of murder in the courts of Paris, France, where the motive for the crime is passion. Morbid sentimentalism is rife. A striking instance was the recent acquittal of Mme Lamberjack, the wife of a director of the Franco-American Automobile Company. The facts were not in dispute: Mme Lamberjack had divorced her husband, and when he went to her house to get his effects she shot him three times in the back. Specialists testified that she was perfectly responsible, but she denied that she had intended to kill her husband and a jury acquitted her. Similar cases are of recent record.

The Paris journals are full of speculations as to the reason for this unwholesome state of mind in juries. But, as a matter of fact, it does not seem confined to juries, for we read that the murder trial now rivals the opera and the theater in Paris as a place of popular amusement. Everybody goes to murder trials and talks about them afterward. They are the vogue; real actors and real thrills. The accounts of these recent trials will surely surprise readers of Roman Rolland, who gives us in Jean-Christophe a picture of just such a society as they call up in the mind, a society satiated with fiction and weary of plays, hungry for sensations, and for the raw meat of the emotions, and seeking its pleasure in the first-hand impressions of murder trials.

Great Britain, it seems, is confronted by a perplexing architectural problem in building the new capitol at Delhi. Is the visible symbol of the empire's majesty and might to be a monument of Indian art or is it to be mainly western in type? Those who answer that it should conform to the Indian type find themselves still face to face with this problem: If it is to be Indian, shall it be predominantly Moslem or predominantly Hindu? For there are many styles in India, and a characteristic architecture would fuse their salient features.

The London Times devotes a "leader" to the subject, treating it with vast solemnity. In the same issue of the Times Herbert Baker, a distinguished South African architect, points out that the difficulty is to find in the Indian type those "constructive and geometrical qualities necessary to embody the idea of law and order which have been produced out of chaos by the British administration." The Hindu genius expressed itself in lavish ornamentation, achieving a unique splendor, but failing to give the impression of design. As for the Moguls, they left for models tombs, fortresses and mosques; they reared magnificent gateways and intricate mazes of pavilions and towers, set behind massive walls. How can this architecture express the openness and solidity of the British rule? Better, he thinks, the classic style of Jones and Wren fused with the nobler features of Indian architecture.

The site of the new capitol is unsurpassed. It is surrounded by some of the masterpieces of Moslem architecture. The opportunity is equal to the problem, and something like genius will be required to devise a new type which shall be a fit symbol of empire.

LESS DRUNKENNESS.

Signs That It Is Breeding Popular in Britain.

The increased sobriety of the people of Great Britain has been frequently and favorably commented on, and well-known social workers state that evidence was again forthcoming during the recent holidays to show that men are less inclined than formerly to squander their hard-earned savings in a few days' unrestrained excesses. Drunkenness, which used to be the most venial of vices, has become so discreditable as to rule a man out of society. Statesmanship and hard drinking used to be considered quite compatible. Wagners made his son drink more port than he did on the principle that an ounce to be sober enough to see his father slide under the table; and the habits of the younger Pitt were such that if he were a Minister to-day his career would quickly end. It is gratifying to find that the change of view as to drunkenness is not confined to the higher walks of life. Among the superior artisan classes the habitual habit of alcohol is an object of contempt and the more industrious men are spending their holidays in an impressive proof that in this important respect the nation is really on the up-grade.

Many a man feels himself when he thinks that he is fooling his wife.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, FEBRUARY 18.

Lesson VII.—The call of Abram, Gen. 12: 1-9. Golden text, Gen. 12: 2.

Verse 1: Now Jehovah said unto Abram—These words give the sequel of the last verses of the preceding chapter, the country which Abram is commanded to leave being not Ur, but Haran. Just how God spoke to Abram we are not told. His voice is to be thought of, however, not as something external, but rather as heard within Abram's inmost soul.

Get thee out—Depart from thy country... thy kindred—Abram was to leave both his home and his relatives. This command to sever his family ties and wander forth into an unknown land was no small demand or test of faith.

2. The promise, however, is as great as the requirement. In this unknown land to which he is commanded to go Abram is to become a great nation and an example and a blessing to many nations.

Be thou a blessing—According to the Hebrew idiom, the impersonation of blessing, most blessed (compare Psa. 21: 6; Isa. 19: 24; Zech. 8: 13).

3. I will bless them that bless thee—Thus indirectly will Abram become a source of blessedness to others, who will be blessed with prosperity or visited with misfortune according as they are friendly or unfriendly to him.

In these shall all the families of the earth be blessed—A promise repeated to Abram in Gen. 18: 18, and again to Jacob, Gen. 28: 14. The simplest interpretation is that all nations shall be blessed through the revelation given to Israel, a promise fulfilled in the later extension of the religious ideals of Abram and his descendants to the Gentiles. The Hebrew, however, permits of another rendering and interpretation, according to which the sense of the verb translated "be blessed" becomes reflexive, "bless themselves." The rendering would then become "All families of the earth shall bless themselves by thee," that is, in blessing themselves they will use thy name as a type of supreme blessedness and wish for themselves the blessings recognized to be the special possession of thy descendants. According to the first interpretation, Israel is to become the organ or channel through which great blessings are to be communicated ultimately to the world; according to the second, the great blessings which Jehovah will bestow upon Israel will attract the attention of other nations and awaken in them a longing to participate in these blessings. In either case the promise remains in the wider sense of the term a Messianic promise.

4. Lot—Son of Haran and nephew of Abram. The story of his life will be found in this and the two succeeding chapters of Genesis. In character, a strong contrast to Abram in that he was selfish, weak, and worldly though relatively, in comparison with his heathen neighbors, he was still accounted "righteous," his personal character being sufficiently free from reproach to render him in the sight of God worthy of special deliverance. He stands in the Bible narrative as a type of men who think too exclusively of worldly advantage and present ease.

Haran—The name both of a city and of a district in the northwestern part of Mesopotamia on a tributary of the Euphrates. A long range of mounds still marks the site of the ancient city. On the slope of one of these mounds there is a modern village of small huts, and near by the ruins of a very ancient castle or fortress. The city of Haran is mentioned in some of the Assyrian inscriptions recently brought to light. On one of these Sargon, king of Assyria, boasts that "he spread out his shadow over the city of Haran, and as soldiers of Anu and Dagan wrote its laws." Sennacherib also mentions Haran as having been destroyed by his predecessors. The city of Haran still flourished under the Romans and its inhabitants were among the last to give up the Chaldaean language and the worship of Chaldaean deities.

5. All their substance—Consisting principally of cattle, sheep, and horses; clothing, silver, and gold; and household possessions. The souls that they had gotten—including children, servants, and slaves. A little later Abram is said to have had 315 trained servants (Gen. 14: 14). It was, therefore, quite a company or tribe which migrated westward under the leadership of Abram.

Canaan—The name "Canaan" is derived from a root meaning to bow down, and signifies "lowlands." It was first applied only to the west coast region of Palestine; later it was applied to the Jordan valley and thence to the whole country, including the mountainous districts as well as the lowlands.

6. Shechem—A locality and later a city in Palestine, situated between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim west of the Jordan in the territory allotted to Ephraim, some distance north of Jerusalem. One meaning of the name is "saddle" or "shoulder," and the name of the city may therefore well have been derived from its position on the saddlelike ridge between the two mountains. Another suggestion is that the place received its name from Shechem, the son of Hamor, the Hivite,

prince of the land (Gen. 33: 18, 19). The former suggestion, however, seems the more probable. Oak of Morah—The reference appears to be to a sacred tree, the word "Morah" coming from "Morah," the word used regularly of the authoritative direction given by the priests. The word translated "oak" is rendered in the margin of the Revised Version Terabith. The tree, which is one resembling the oak, is still common in Palestine, as is also the oak proper.

7. Canaanite—Lowlander. 8. Beth-el—The ancient Luz, historically connected with the history of the patriarchs. To be identified with the modern Beitin, about twelve miles north of Jerusalem. 9. Ai—The name means "heat." The location of Morah was a little more than two miles southeast of Beth-el, on the road between the latter place and the Jordan valley. Apparently a city of importance at the time of the Conquest of Palestine by the Hebrews (compare Joshua 7).

10. Journeyed—By easy stages, as is customary in Palestine. The word in the original means literally to pluck up, that is, to move the tent or camp. Toward the South—Literally, the Negeb, the name given to the southern tract of Judah, a restricted district lying between the hill country about Hebron and the wilderness of the Sinaitic peninsula.

DUCHESS AS DOG-FANCIER Following the example of her brother, Wm. K. Vanderbilt, the Duchess of Marlborough is building up a reputation as an enthusiastic dog fancier.

At one time the Duchess ignored the dog craze and it was a matter of common talk that she was practically the only woman in the "smart set" circle who did not possess a dog of some class among her household pets. Now she appears to be falling into line with her friends and is paying fancy prices for bulldog breeds and water spaniels.

Her experiences have not been up to the present entirely favorable, for a few days ago a valuable animal which was being consigned to her from Ireland got sufficed on the journey, and as the consignment was at owner's risk the loss will mean something in the neighborhood of \$5,000.

Next year the Duchess hopes to join the ranks of the society women who have been for a number of years an active and conspicuous element in the Ladies' Kennel Club.



Duchess of Marlborough.

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SLEEPING A DISEASE.

Excessive Somnolence Is So Explained By a Doctor.

An attempt to explain the excessive somnolence of Pickwick's fat boy is made by Dr. Frederick Taylor, F.R.C.P., in an interesting article on sleepiness in "Practitioner."

Dr. Taylor is sympathetic towards those with whom sleep is an affliction, and he thinks that the fat boy may possibly have suffered from some mysterious disease. "There is no evidence that he was overworked mentally or physically," adds Dr. Taylor.

He cites the case of a prisoner who, when charged with sleeping in the roadway, went to sleep in the dock; tells of a housemaid who went to sleep in the act of announcing a visitor, and while carrying a tray with cups full of coffee; and mentions a woman "who was a nurse, till, in one of her sleeping paroxysms, she dropped the baby on the floor and nearly killed it."

"There are also on record other cases of a somewhat different kind," says Dr. Taylor, "in which the individual sleeps continuously for hours, days and months; some of these are described as narcolepsy, and they seem to present all features with tremors, cataplexy, hysterics and insanity. Some cases are interrupted; on another occasion fifteen months. Another man, in eight years, spent more than four and a half of them in sleep. The final attack lasted fifteen months." Tea, coffee, and even tobacco are mentioned as remedies which will keep people awake when attacked by sleepiness. Dr. Taylor states that he has employed with success an egg beaten in coffee.

It Ought. "He's a man of few words." "That ought to make him popular."

ATROCITIES IN BOKHARA

HOW RUSSIA IS TREATING THE INHABITANTS.

7,000 Persons Are Tortured and 700 Die under Torture in One Year.

Ever since 1868 Bokhara, a country lying immediately north of Afghanistan, has been a Russian province. It is governed by Russia, possesses Russian garrisons, a Russian railroad, and no one is allowed within its borders without a Russian passport. When Russia assumed suzerainty over Bokhara it was understood that there would be some compensating advantages to the population, which is composed for the most part of Mussulmans. They were to be civilized, if not indeed won over to the sort of Christianity that passes as religion in Russia. It must be said that in the forty years of the Russian occupation there have been few complaints from Bokhara. What never has happened there appears to have suited the people, or rather that portion of the population that otherwise would have attracted attention by protest. On the part of outsiders there has been no protest, for the passport rule kept out travellers who might give an unfavorable opinion of the Russian regime.

A Russian Muckraker.

A few weeks ago there was heard in certain newspapers a first cry from Bokhara, that it was an exceedingly bitter cry. A Russian traveller had been through the country, and on his return he sought to rouse his fellow-countrymen to the cruelties practised there. Since a very small percentage of the Russian people read newspapers, and since the censorship is still strict, we may safely conclude that people in Canada and in other parts of the world will be talking about the situation in Bokhara before the people of Russia are aroused. In either event talking is not likely to do much good. However, in view of the fact that the atrocious cruelties which the Russian traveller, Alexander Petkoff, discovered were not, in the majority of cases, practised by Russian officials, but by native authorities, there is some prospect that their perpetration will be forbidden, and will thus seek to show herself the friend to her charges, the Bokharans.

Torture and Execution.

Mr. Petkoff happened to be in a hotel one night when he was awakened by screams from the adjoining room. He found out that the room was being used as a local court of justice. By holding the sentry he secured admittance while the trial was going on. The trial consisted of torturing a poor wretch accused of petty theft. One by one his fingers were twisted until they broke. As the eighth bone was broken he confessed. Next morning as Mr. Petkoff was driving away he passed the market place, and saw there the victim of the previous night. He was being executed. He was bound, but refusing the adjuration towards the executioner to look up, the man kept his face down, and the swordman could not for some time strike the fatal blow. Before he did so the man's face was slashed out of recognition. Finally the executioner made a feint. The man ducked his head, and when he looked up the descending sword caught him full in the throat and severed his head.

Tortured for Every Offence.

Horried at the spectacle, Mr. Petkoff decided to investigate the administration of justice in Bokhara, and what he discovered subsequently formed the substance of his disclosures in the Russian press. He found that under the Russian regime the old savage methods of punishment remained in vogue, and that even though the Russian officials did not personally witness the tortures, they were well aware that they were going on. They were simply bribed by the local authorities to close their eyes. For every offence there was some penalty of torture, granted not according to the heinousness of the crime, but according to the prosperity of the prisoner. On the payment of fines torture sentences were remitted. A man sentenced to have his ears twisted off could escape on payment of \$25. He could save his eyes for \$150. In every case the judge simply put the fine in his own pocket, though it is supposed that afterwards he would have to "split" with the accomplice who laid the charge.

Death for Infidelity.

Prisoners who have no money at all are beheaded, or are hanged "Russian fashion." That is to say, they are strung up for a few moments, taken down, flogged, strung up again for the third time. Women guilty of infidelity are killed. A favorite method is to tie them in a sack and throw them off an 80-foot parapet. Sometimes a faithless husband is killed, but only if his wife happens to be the daughter of some influential citizen. It is estimated that every year 7,000 persons are tortured in Bokhara, and that 700 die under torture. In view of the fact that the total population does not exceed 1,000,000, it would appear that the horrors of the Putnamay and the Congo are equalled, if they are not surpassed, in a country that is supposed to be under Christian government.

The more a man knows the easier it is to keep his face shut.

TENANT FOR 600 YEARS!

Marvelous Instance of Long-Continued Residence.

At the last Revision Court in Northumberland it was proved that a cottage fifteen miles from Gilhead had been in the continuous occupation of one family, generation after generation, for over 600 years! It was further elicited during the evidence that the kitchen fire of this cottage had never been allowed to go out for well over 200 years! says London Answers.

Surely both these things must constitute an actual record of their kind in England! Yet there are other similar long tenancies and continuations of various things amongst us which may well make the world stare at a time that is so prone to new and changing life and environment.

Sir Laurence Gomme, of the London County Council, mentioned, at a meeting of the Folklore Society, that he knew a case where the kitchen fire was not only a perpetual one, in so far as it had been kept alight for hundreds of years, but that whenever food was cooked at it, a small part of the food was thrown back into the fire "for luck," the family said. But he believed that, in reality, this custom was but a relic of the fire-worshipping propensities of the older generations of this family.

What shall we say about a noted English family who have attended the same school for nearly 200 years, thus making themselves the record one in England for this splendid fidelity to the old school? The Fienes family, whose head is Lord Saye and Sele, have certainly attended Winchester School since the early part of 1600. There was Fienes at Winchester about 1620, and there was one at least a year or two back.

It is on record how, when Cromwell's savage troops pillaged Winchester Cathedral, and did untold damage there, afterwards making their way to the College with their way to do likewise, a Colonel Fienes, who was Cromwell's friend and officer, stood with drawn sword at the College gates, and defied any soldier to attempt to desecrate the old school whilst he stood there alive to defend it.

The celebrated old Chequers Inn, at Slapton, in Yorkshire, boasts that its fire has never been lacking to warm a traveller for over 120 years, neither day nor night, and that it has been ever ready to receive the coming guest during that time.

The Churchyard family, at Stoke Gabriel, Devonshire, can boast a wonderful tenancy, which must come almost next to that of the Cumberland one already mentioned. The Churchyards entered upon possession of their house at Stoke Gabriel in the fifteenth century, and have never left it since!

Generation after generation of them has succeeded to the house for more than 400 years; and Mr. Frederick Churchyard, the present honored tenant, erected a stained-glass window in the church not long ago as a thank-offering on the 420th anniversary of the family's tenancy there.

ELECTRICITY IN CHINA.

Use of the Power for Advertising Growing.

During the past year Chinese merchants in Shanghai have taken up electric advertising to a surprising extent, and now the large stores on Nanking Road vie with one another in the splendor of their shop fronts.

It has always been the custom among the Chinese to drape the store on opening day in red hangings of silk covered with pictures of fairies and geni and inscriptions of good omen. With the coming of evening lanterns would be suspended among the hangings and illuminated by candles. This has all changed now. First the Japanese brought in electric advertisements for their patent medicines, and now the Chinese merchant sprinkles a galaxy of electric lights all through the hangings that cover the front of his newly opened store.

At one large store on Nanking Road, the Shanghai Settlement's principal Chinese business street, where the municipal authorities had forced the property owners when rebuilding to move their premises back so as to allow for sidewalk space, fearing that they should be cast in the shade by their competitors next door who had had rebuilt and were therefore moved back from the curb, they leased the front sidewalk out as far as their old frontage from the municipal council and erected thereon a steel staging completely covering the front of their store. Upon this staging they have arranged a magnificent electrical display, which they change periodically. They had no sooner gotten their show well started than another firm further up the street erected for itself a similar staging, and it is now a competition to see which will outdo the other in the magnificence of its display.

No Indeed.

Oleimer—"And how do you like married life?" Newlywed (sighing)—"Well, er, it's no political job!"

Bertie—"What makes you think I've got a sense of humor?" Gertie—"Your self-appreciation."

THE WORTH OF A DREAM

The One Enduring Lesson of the Story Is that Self-Denial Is the Road to Peace

And he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down to sleep, and he dreamed; and behold a ladder set up on the earth and the top of it reached to heaven; and he held the angels of God ascending and descending on it—Genesis xxxiii, 11, 12.

When Jacob lay down to sleep that night no doubt he thought that was the hardest part of his life. But he never thought so afterward. It was a necessary experience and he prayed God for it. We do not ordinarily thank God for difficulties and adversities even when we have come safely through them with improved characters; but Jacob did. These are many altars that ought to be built by us, and consecrated with costly oil that we have neglected.

The Law Is Inevitable—No stone pillow, no vision; no hard knocks, no heaven; no struggle, no victory. The boy who whimpers for the pleasant paths and must needs be lifted over the stones he comes at last an unsteady, unreliable and unable nonentity—never a man. Ability is not a gift—it is a lesson taught by blows and buffeting winds. But the boy who acts out in life crying, "Fetch me a lion to fight, show me a mountain to

climb, set me a task that will take all that is in me of grit and pluck," grows into a healthy and useful manhood. Not only so, but he makes discoveries in these adventures; for every hard spot in life is a barred door which when he thunders at it until his fists are bleeding and his body aches opens full wide and admits him to a sanctuary where he may heal his hurts and dip his hands deep in the shining treasures of hope and peace and joy. "To him that overcometh will I give to sit with Me on my throne."

"He Dreamed." Nay, but he had been dreaming disconsolate, and he woke jubilant and saw the vision; the real man within him woke up and saw the things that are steadfast and never pass away. The people who call the dreamers are the only wide-awake persons. Not the philosophers, but the poets explore for us the regions of the real. To dream well is to live well. Vision is a necessity of the beneficent life. Through it we see the providence and friendship of God and the divineness and possibilities of man; we see things in their proper proportions and know that this is God's world and that it is sentinelled by His angels, and we are ever at our service.—Rev. M. P. Johnston.

PASSING OF THE CAMEL.

To Be Made to Feel That He Can Be Done Without.

Ten years ago journals were waxing sentimental about the passing of the horse; the motor car would drive him from our streets and five years would see him a curiosity. It was touching and made good human-interest journalism in its time. But the passing of the horse is surely not nearly so tragic as the passing of the camel.

French officers have succeeded in inventing a sand sled for use in the Sahara Desert and it has successfully travelled from Biskra to Touggourt, 125 miles, without a mishap. This new vehicle is propelled by means of a propeller working in the air, and altogether it sounds most ingenious. The cables assure us that desert transportation will now be greatly simplified, and that the camel will not be an essential means of locomotion.

Alas, poor camel! Through the centuries he has held a proud place in the hearts of men. Of all animals none but he could weather the terrors of the desert, without him man was powerless to penetrate the hearts of the great continents. And now, like the rest of us, he is to be superseded by a mere machine. He will become a drug in the market and when we go to view his almost extinct species in the zoological parks of the world we shall no longer be able to explain to little Willie that he is "the ship of the desert."

MUST SCHOOL DESK GO!

Children Sit Down Too Much, Oregon Teacher Claims.

The familiar school desk, as we know it, is soon to become a curiosity. Progress in education has done it. The school desk, that since they were first opened, during those great days when the glorious Court of Louis XIV. made France the wonder of the civilized world.

EMPEROR AND KING.

If King Victor Emmanuel, as it is rumored, really had the intention of taking the title of Roman emperor, he will only be following the fashion recently set in the Balkans. The czar, or emperor, of Bulgaria was, until a short time ago, only the king of that country, and his elevation to the higher rank was decided on by his majesty alone. A similar self-imposed promotion took place in the case of the king of Montenegro, the ruler of the State of the Black Mountain having formerly been only a prince.

Good Reason.

Oleimer—"And how do you like married life?" Newlywed (sighing)—"Well, er, it's no political job!"

Belles Economy.

"What is the meaning of economy?" "Economy, my son, is going without something you do want in case some day you should want something which you probably won't want."

FROM ERIN'S GREEN ISLE

NEWS BY MAIL FROM IRELAND'S SHORES.

Happenings in the Emerald Isle of Interest to Irishmen.

The National School, near New Ross, has been burned to the ground.

The death has occurred of Mrs. M. Morrison, Carrickbeg, at the age of 101 years.

Clonmel branch of the Gaelic League are to hold an Industrial Exhibition in Clonmel next June.

Considerable damage was done by fire in the out offices of McLeigh's Hotel in Ballynahinch.

Dr. Byrne, Medical Officer of Drogheda, and Coroner for the district, has died at the age of 52 years.

The licensed premises of James Corrigan, Main Street, Newtownstewart, have been destroyed by fire.

Twenty-five tons of hay, the property of William Flahive, of Mile-eight, Kerry, has been destroyed by fire.

A man named O'Brien, a native of Rosleigh, has died of food-poisoning, the result of a scratch by a cat.

The death has occurred of Mr. William Lorrain, County Tipperary, at the advanced age of 100 years.

An old man named James Feagan of Jenkinstown district, suddenly expired in Church Street, Dundalk. He was 85 years of age.

At a meeting of the Clonmel Corporation it was decided to adopt the report recommending the formation of a regular fire brigade.

A little girl named Sheridan, aged four years, was killed at Cranahan, Ballycornell, by the falling of the gable wall of the house.

Mrs. Mary Fehilly has just passed away in her 104th year at her daughter's residence, Middleton. The old lady was a regular smoker.

A man named Patrick O'Connor was killed in Mallow while engaged in felling a decayed poplar, near the Spa House, which fell on him.

Mrs. L. Poole, one of the two lady members of the Waterford Corporation, has announced her intention of being a candidate for the majority this year.

The magistrates at the Carrick-on-Suir petty sessions have decided to inflict terms of imprisonment in all cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

The Portdown weavers have obtained an increase in wages amounting to from 5 to 7 1/2 per cent, according to the quality of the work they were employed on.

The town tenants of Westport have been negotiating with the middlemen with a view to opening a way for the early purchase of the tenants of their holdings.

The hemstitchers employed in the firm of Mosses, Chisholm and Doney, Belfast, have struck on a question of wages. About 200 girls are involved in the dispute.

An alarming and widespread outbreak of parasitic mange has manifested itself in Dublin city and suburbs within the past few weeks. Upwards of 200 horses have been isolated.

Captain Thomas Crotty has died at Waterford at an advanced age. He deceased was commander of the 5th Dragoon Regiment, which was lost in Waterford Harbor many years ago.

The Limerick Corporation have unanimously agreed to oppose the Limerick Harbor Commissioners in the application for a bill to remove the present swing bridge leading to Wellesley Bridge.