

# NOT REALLY 'NEW'

## Modern Comforts Well Known to the Ancients.

Running Water in Houses, for instance, was a Luxury Enjoyed by Both the Roman and Early Egyptian Civilizations.

Many of the so-called "modern improvements" of civilization, which so largely contribute to the comfort of living, are by no means so recent in origin as we are disposed to imagine. An eminent archeologist has recently declared, for example, that Nero's palace in Rome had three elevators. It is true that those elevators must have been hoisting machines of very primitive pattern—operated, presumably by man power, with the help of rope and counter weight—and it is more than doubtful that they were ever used to carry human freight. Few palaces or other buildings in ancient Rome were more than two stories in height, and passenger "lifts" were for that reason not needed.

We are accustomed to think of running water in houses as a modern luxury. New York city did not have it until 1776, when a reservoir was constructed east of Broadway, into which water was raised by pumping it from wells dug for the purpose. But that was a very primitive arrangement compared with the system of ancient Rome, by which water was brought from great distances in aqueducts that were marvels of engineering and that emptied through lead pipes into thousands of tanks of hewn stone.

Erected at intervals along the streets of Pompeii were pillars of masonry, up which ran lead pipes; and on top of each pillar was a tank, from which water was distributed by pipes to the houses. All dwellings, except those of the very poor, were thus supplied, and some had nearly a score of faucets, controlled by stopcocks that were much like those that are in use today.

At many street corners there were fountains with stone basins, the edges of which even now show depressions worn by the hands of the people who leaned over to drink. Those fountains were fed by the city water, which was brought by an aqueduct from a distant place so elevated that the "head" was very powerful. That kind of engineering was highly developed in those times. When Julius Caesar first visited Alexandria in Egypt he found there a complete underground water supply system that the city seemed "to follow underneath."

In the year 73 B. C. Julius Caesar organized the fire department of Rome. It had a force of 600 men. At that time a primitive fire engine had already come into use; it was a pair of pumps worked by a beam, and the two streams united in a common discharge pipe and passed out through a nozzle that could be turned in any direction. "Siphons"—emergency fire extinguishers—were commonly kept in houses. Frequent mention is made of them in ancient literature, but we do not know what they were like.—Youth's Companion.

### Lafe's Tribute.

As we reached a certain smooth road, along which travel daily many ammunition wagons, we met a mulish skinner walking. He was going in the direction of a certain military graveyard, where are buried Americans and French and Germans, Senegalese and Moroccans and Tunisians—Christians and Mohammedans. Over the mulish skinner's right arm hung a French wreath. With his left hand he was leading a sulken looking mule. As we were about to pass him our engine died. W—got out to crank up and the mule skinner stopped to watch and talk to us. Meantime an M. P. strolled down.

"Where you goin' with that, Lafe?" he asked, nodding at the wreath.

"Well," replied Lafe, with a hitch at the mule, "there was a damn fool I used to sleep with, and he got his two nights ago. He was a hell of a good fellow, and I bought this wreath to put on his cross."—Maude Radford Warren in the Saturday Evening Post.

Four thousand textile workers are organizing a union in London.

# LIVE IN PRACTICAL SLAVERY

## Ethiopians Little Better Than Serfs to the Germans, Who Own Nine-Tenths of Land.

Ethiopians, or Esths, who have repulsed repeated attacks from the Bolsheviks, and recently drove a force under Trotsky to ignominious flight, are described by Dr. Edwin A. Grosvenor in a National Geographic society bulletin as follows:

The Esths are a Finno-Ugric people, once savage and adventurous, terrifying the Baltic with their piracy, constantly attacking and attacked by the Danes and Swedes. Their final subjection by the Brothers of the Sword and their enforced acceptance of Christianity crushed their spirit and rendered them serfs to the German masters.

The Esths outnumber the Germans in the old province of Esthonia 25 to 1; yet nine-tenths of all the land is held by Germans.

In the former province of Livonia the Esths constitute nearly half the population, while the Germans are less than one-fiftieth. There the land is divided into estates averaging over ten thousand acres in extent, none owned by an Esth or Lett but almost invariably by a German.

The Russian government at times endeavored by agrarian laws to alleviate the condition of the peasant. Such efforts failed against the stolid resistance of the great proprietors.

The Esths have clung devotedly to their national language, the sole inheritance from their past. They love poetry and song. Their physical characteristics are Finnic; their faces short, broad, beardless; their foreheads low, mouths small, arms long, legs short. Despite their extreme poverty education is relatively advanced. All but 4 per cent are Lutheran Protestants.

Since the sudden universal awakening in 1918 the Esths have been insistent upon national recognition. But ownership in the land is their greatest need.

### WHEN FLYING IS UNIVERSAL

#### Some Highly Interesting Legal Problems That Will Call for Intelligent Settlement.

A series of interesting questions has been made concerning contingencies that may be expected when the air is actually used for miscellaneous traffic. How, for example, will the man on the ground be protected against carelessness by the man in the air, and what kind of sign can the airplane carry which will serve to identify it if some earth-man wishes to lodge a complaint with the authorities? Or again, what will be the rights of the proprietors of a baseball park if an aviator evades the price of admission by flying about over the diamond? Or what will be the remedy of the man who is kept awake at night by airplane motors? What will be the limit of the private citizen's property measured perpendicularly, and how can he tell whether or not an airplane is trespassing? Such questions are amusing to read, but in all seriousness they mean that the legal problems that will come up with the increasing use of airplanes will require ingenuity for settlement.

### Queen of the Rhine.

A writer in the March number of The Sunday at Home recalls that Cologne, on the Rhine, which is now occupied by British troops, dates back to the year 37 B. C. In the year 50 A. D. a Roman colony was established there by Colonia Agrippina, the wife of Claudius Caesar, and the city was named after her. It has always been an important city, doing a large trade. The 1906 census shows a population of 428,500, of whom 80 per cent are Roman Catholics.

Cologne is a fortress of the first rank, the forts forming a semi-circle around the city. Being an ancient city, the streets are narrow and crooked. The Church of Ursula is said to contain the bones of 11,000 virgins, slaughtered, the legend informs us, by the ancient Romans because they would not break their vows of chastity. The great cathedral is one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Europe. It was centuries in building. The total cost has been about two millions.

# RAISULI VERY GALLANT

## IMPRESSION OF RELENTLESS MOROCCAN BANDIT.

Wealthy American Citizen Who Was Held for Ransom Found Himself Commencing to Like the Man Who Had Demanded a Fortune as Payment for His Release.

THAT relentless bandit, Raisuli, the Villa of Morocco, whose present raids have caused a political crisis in Spain, has another side.

"He could not bear to hear a child's cry; while on several occasions I noticed his care even to avoid allowing the bees collected on his cap to drown," is the surprising statement, not of a friend, but of the wealthy American who was held for ransom by Raisuli in 1904, until President Roosevelt sent a fleet of warships and his ultimatum, "Perdicaris alive or Raisuli dead," to Morocco.

Ion Perdicaris' own story of the "Moroccan Robin Hood" is interesting. "In many respects the man interested and attracted me in spite of all my natural motives for dislike. Raisuli was at once so gracious and dignified, not to us only, but to his own wild adherents, who evidently idolized their chieftain, whose position among them seemed that of the head of a Highland clan in the olden times.

"He was quick to see the humorous aspect of a situation, while his repartee was as immediate and to the point as though he had been born in County Galway itself. In fact I discovered to my consternation that I was beginning to like the man in spite of my natural resentment."

I found myself unconsciously accepting his contention that he was not a mere brigand or cattle-lifter, but a patriot struggling to rescue his Berber followers from the tyranny of the corrupt chieftain officials. His charm of voice, the natural poise and dignity of his manner, his self-control under provocation, all betrayed a superior character. He is in fact a born leader and with a certain statesmanlike quality. He deplored the condition of his country, the feuds which separate the tribes, the many deeds of violence, and the blood so uselessly shed.

"In fact, this strange experience while in camp with Raisuli at Tazadart began to assume an aspect of unexpected and idyllic charm. The life of the natives; the little touches of more gentle human character; the tiny child who offered me fruit, which I at first declined, until I noticed the expression of disappointment and mortification upon the boy's face, and then the radiant and almost ridiculous satisfaction of the little fellow when I pretended to enjoy his half-ripe offering; the many attempts of the wild people about me to propitiate me; their curiosity as to our manners and customs, as when one venerable inhabitant of the village led me gently aside to inquire why we walked so energetically up and down the village green. "For health's sake," was my reply. "Indeed," said the old Mohammedan, "and may I ask how many such daily turns, up and down, it may require to keep a Christian in good health?"—all afforded matter of interest and reflection.

"One day one of his followers arrived from Tangier, almost breathless from his haste, to report the arrival of the two American squadrons. I watched Raisuli with anxiety, lest apprehending the landing of marines he might endeavor to drag us to some more distant and inaccessible retreat. What was my surprise when looking up with a bright smile, he said, 'Well, I think I can now congratulate you.' "I do not understand you," I replied.

"I mean," answered Raisuli, that the presence of these vessels will lead the authorities at Tangier to make such representations to the Sultan as may result in his acceding to my demands, and then you will be able to return to your friends."

"The next morning it was still dark when our men began loading the pack-mules, and we reached the crest of the mountain, which lay between us and Tangier, just as the sun rose. Never have I anywhere witnessed a scene of more wild and fantastic charm. A slight mist hung about the base of the rocks, whose peaks and turrets were now flecked with crimson or lilac, now shaded with purple, by some passing cloud.

"At last the mules bearing the silver dollars, carefully packed in boxes, arrived; but now luncheon was again served in honor of Mulai Ahmed, and must be partaken of, after which the bullock was counted in another room.

"Here I was presently summoned. 'The silver,' said Raisuli, addressing me, 'has been counted—\$20,000, as stipulated, in Spanish dollars; but these letters,' showing me as he spoke a cheque book containing certified cheques on the Comptoir d'Escompte, the French bank at Tangier, 'of the value of these which are supposed to represent \$50,000, I know nothing. However, I will accept them on your personal guarantee, but on that condition only.' "I gave the required assurance verbally, and Raisuli, leading me to the door, bade me adieu, saying that he had learned to look upon me as a friend, and that he hoped I cherished no ill feeling on account of my detention."

### Hardening Lead.

An addition of a small quantity of sodium or magnesium to lead hardens the metal considerably. If tin be added to either of these alloys its brittleness is somewhat diminished and its resistance to chemical action accordingly increased.

The three-year-old daughter of Duncan McMillan, Swallow Lake, died of scalds received when she fell into a pail of hot water.

Branford G.W.V.A. has taken up the co-operative movement with a view of establishing a depot where veterans can receive supplies.

Minnie Meeks, Stratford, who is charged with causing the death of her baby, was committed for trial at the spring assizes.

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The new Ontario Government has abolished the names of all newspapers from what is known as the "newspaper patronage list," according to the announcement made by Premier E. C. Drury, who addressed the Canadian Press Association's conference Friday in Toronto. The Lettish Government has regarded itself in a state of war with Germany. American football during the past season claimed only five victims, the lowest in years.

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