

DUSKY NEW WOMEN.

Females of an Arab Tribe Who Go Covered While Their Men Cover Their Faces.

Many an Arab lady never leaves her house from the time she is married until she is carried out to be buried, says Pearson's Weekly. A woman of the middle class is allowed more liberty, and occasionally goes out for walks, accompanied as a rule by a servant. The poor creature is enveloped in masses of white drapery, which make her look like a walking bundle, and in front of her face she arranges a large black scarf embroidered with blue, red and white flowers. It falls low in front, and, even by holding up the ends, she cannot see more than a foot or two of the road before her. I often wonder that she does not get run over when she goes out alone, for I am sure she needs a dog to guide her quite as much as any blind man. Servants and other women of the lower classes wear pieces of black etrepon wound tightly round their faces, leaving just a slit for their eyes to peep through, and they are equally muffled up in white draperies. Seen from a distance, they might be men with masks or thick black beads, as in Arab countries it is by no means easy to tell a man from a woman at first sight. The older and uglier a woman is the more prudish she seems to be about covering up her face, which, after all, is rather considerable on her part. Even the greater number of negroes wear the yashuk, but the Bedouin women never do. Indeed, I am told that in the interior there is one Arab tribe whose men wear veils, and whose women go about with their faces uncovered. These are probably the "new women" of Africa.

SLEDGING IN SIBERIA.

It is Attended with All the Terrors of Death by Freezing—A Terrible Experience.

Traveling by sledge in Siberia in winter has its perils, as the experience of Mr. Robert L. Jefferson and his friends goes to illustrate. The incidents are told in "Roughing it in Siberia." "We had chartered six sorry-looking horses to drag us on to the next stage. It was night when we started. The driver, a man in a fur cap, had to be helped to his seat, and we set off along the narrow roadway at the usual gallop, which, however, soon dwindled into a mere shuffle through the snow. We had gone to sleep, and some hours after our departure Gaskell woke me and said he thought something was wrong. "The sledge was at a standstill and our shouts to the yemshik brought no response. Black darkness prevailed. I bundled out of the sledge, so bemuddled that I could scarcely move. I felt along the sledge, sinking to my knees in the snow. "The driver's perch was empty; and just then I stumbled over one of the horses, which was lying buried up to its neck. It was clear that the driver had fallen from his seat, and that the horses had wandered from the track. The poor beasts were stuck fast, and a closer inspection showed one of them to be dead—literally frozen to death. If we would save ourselves from the same fate, prompt action was necessary. "The other horses were nearly succumbing. They lay flat on their stomachs and nibbled at the snow. We cut the spare rope which we stood on either side of the living animal, and then our arms ached. At length they moved, and by pushing and pulling we got the sledge turned. Then, step by step, with much foundering and many falls, we began to retrace our way. "All this in pitch darkness, in a raw, cold wind, and in momentary expectation of one or all of the horses dropping dead. "It was a terrible experience, but we regained the road and finally reached the village."

LITTLE WORLD IN ITSELF.

Provincialism in Paris—Thinks Only of Dreyfus and Believes All the World Does So, Too.

I went out on Sunday to a little town just over 20 miles from Paris, writes a correspondent of the London Mail. I dined in the inn—a couple of cyclists from Paris yawning at the other side of the table, a local notary and a couple of friends at the top. Afterwards, paying the bill with a sovereign. A sovereign is the currency in the remotest village of Norway, in Turkey, in Egyptian mud bazaars, where a white man has hardly ever been seen. But the French innkeeper, 30 miles from Paris, had never seen a sovereign and never heard of one, and he absolutely declined, with the utmost politeness, to bid more than 20 francs for it. That is a parable of the present state of things in France. In England we are troubled and grave, preparing our fleets, regretful that France will be our enemy, that France insists on having war. But if war came nobody would be more utterly astonished than France. France is paying absolutely no attention to the Fashoda question. If declared war France would consider it a most unprovoked aggression, just as she regards the present plain speaking of our journals as mere mad throwing, such as she is accustomed to read in her own press about the Dreyfus affair. France, in brief, is just now interested in something else—namely: the affair. And it is utterly impossible to persuade her that what absorbs her does not equally absorb the whole world. The queen of civilization is wholly and hopelessly provincial.

BACKSET FOR A POET.

The Rectifying Rhythmeter is Squelched by a Golden Haired Tot of Five.

He is a kindly old gentleman and he writes sweet little poems about children. He also has the habit of reciting his verses by the hour to any willing or unwilling listener whom he is fortunate enough to corral, says a Chicago evening. He dropped into the doctor's the other evening, removed his overcoat and began. The doctor is a kind-hearted soul and his wife is a lady of much refinement. They have a little golden-haired girl of five, who sat for a long time and stared at the visitor solemnly. He has committed to heart every thing that he has ever written, and his poems are innumerable. Occasionally he would stop, and smiling at the little girl, would say: "You liked that didn't you, sissy? That touched you, eh? Oh, I like to have the little children listen to me. They understand me and I understand them." The doctor and the doctor's wife occasionally exclaimed "Beautiful!" or "Touching!" What else could they do? Then the poet declared: "The wondering silence of that child is to me greater praise than the plaudits of admiring thousands." At last the little girl slid down from her chair, and, marching up to the poet, looked him squarely in the eye, while she asked, innocently: "Say, old man, are you going to stay here all night?" "Say, old man, are you going to stay here all night?"

BEGGARS GAIN WEALTH.

A Number of European Mendicants Who Left Pretty Snag Fortunes.

The wealthiest known living professional beggar, Simon Oppasich, an Austrian, was born without feet or hands, and sympathy for his infirmities brought him a large fortune in the shape of alms. In 1880, when he was 47 years old, he had saved \$12,000, and in 1888 he had increased his fortune by speculation to \$23,000 in cash and about \$40,000 in Trieste and Parenzo estates. Since then he has quadrupled his wealth by speculation on the bourse, says the London Mail. When Tori, well-known Italian beggar, died last year, bank books, securities, gold and silver and other articles, to the value of upward of \$80,000, were found in his rooms. His heirs were two nephews, who had been existing in a state of miserable poverty for years. A beggar who died in Auxerre, France, in 1893, was found to have bonds to the value of 1,000,000 francs in an old trunk and 400 bottles of wine of the vintage of 1790. The French seem to be a generous nation, for in the same year an old woman, who lived in a wretched garret in the Rue de Sevres, Paris, died, leaving government securities representing an annual income of \$21, all made by begging. A beggar named Gustave Marcelin, of Avignon, died in November, 1892, and left \$20,000 in French government bonds, to be divided equally between the city and the Bureau di Bienfaisance, the great French charity society.

BATHS NOT HER SPECIALTY.

A Chicago Hospital Patient Who Had Not Had One in Six Months.

This actually occurred in one of the hospitals in the city where a number of patients from the lower walks of life are brought for free treatment, reports the Chicago Chronicle. One night the police ambulance brought a young woman who was suffering from a severe case of rheumatism. The first part of the treatment accorded patients is a thorough bath before they are placed between the clean sheets, and the unpleasant task of administering the scrub is a part of the duty of the probationers, as the nurses are called during the first six months of their training. The one who attempted the work in this case found a hopeless job on her hands, and after much vain labor she went to one of the older nurses for advice. It being a case of rheumatism, they disliked to risk putting her in a tub, but there seemed to be no help for it, so they soused her into the hot water and used soap, soda, alcohol and everything else the place afforded, and they rubbed, scrubbed and scoured with but little success. At last the older nurse exclaimed: "I don't believe you ever had a bath before, did you?" "Yes, I did," replied the patient, in tones of indignation. "When was it?" "Just before I was married." "How long ago was that?" "A little over six months."

KEEPING DOGS QUIET IN JAPAN.

When a dog barks at night in Japan the owner is arrested and sentenced to work for a year for the neighbors whose slumbers may have been disturbed.

HEBREWS HAVE NO RIGHTS IN SPAIN.

In Spain Hebrews are not permitted to erect and maintain houses of worship. They have no civil rights and exist in the kingdom only as aliens.

Bulletin Financier.

Mardi, 3 janvier 1899.

COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTES (CLEARING HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Receves: \$5,594,894 00. Payers: \$608,228 00. Balance: \$5,981,198 00.

RESERVE FONDAIRE. Fonds d'Or: 62. Fonds de Banque: 72. Fonds de Change: 72. Fonds de Rente: 72.

MONNAIES ETRESANGERS ET ETRESANGERS. Monnaie d'Or: 24 000 000. Monnaie d'Argent: 24 000 000.

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Bulletin Commercial.

Mardi, 3 janvier 1899.

Le Marché de la Nive-Orléans.

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A BOY HERO.

The Pittsburgh Youth Who Fought at Manila and Met Admiral Dewey.

One of the heroes of the battle of Manila is a 13-year-old boy, who is popularly called "Boots" by his comrades. "Boots" lately returned on the transport City of Para, and had the distinction of having had a personal interview with Admiral Dewey, who gave him a free trip to Hong-Kong on the Olympia because of his services in the siege of Malate and the fight before Manila. He is the boy who came from Pittsburgh with the regiment. The men smuggled him aboard the transport, but he had hard luck, as he fell down the hatchway on the third day and broke his arm. He was all right when Manila was reached, and in the trenches before Malate he carried water and ammunition and paid no attention to the bullets. As he said: "There was no chance to dodge 'em, they came so quick." He was among the first to enter Manila with a captured Spanish rifle, which he brings back with him. On August 13 he learned that the Olympia was to go to Hong-Kong, so he determined to make the trip. He boarded the ship and asked to be shown to the admiral's cabin. Dewey was sitting at a table with the captain of the ship. "Boots" said: "I salute and says: 'Admiral, I want to go to Hong-Kong,' and he says, pleasant like: 'Well, my boy, you come aboard and we'll take you.'"

FORMOSAN CITY ABANDONED.

Residents of Plague-Stricken Teckham Are Compelled to Leave It.

The Japanese government has ordered the destruction of the city of Teckham, Formosa, and the removal of all its inhabitants to a new location. The city is situated on the northwest coast of the island, and has been frequently subjected to pestilence. In 1896 and 1897 plagues visited Teckham with enormous fatality. This fact being called to the attention of the government, an investigation was ordered by sanitary experts, who reported that the city was built upon a swamp, whereupon an order was issued to the governor to select a new location as convenient to the old as possible, where the natural conditions were healthy. A new city was laid out, and each property holder in the old one was assigned a site that corresponded in area with the one he occupied at Teckham and was given 12 months to move his buildings and belongings. Sewers, railroads and sidewalks, public buildings, water-works and all other public improvements were laid out by the government in the new city without expense to the people, but they were required to pay the cost of the removal of their own property. Most of the houses and other buildings in Teckham are built of very light wooden material.

FIRST WEATHER PROPHECY ON RECORD.

The first attempt at scientific forecasting of the weather was the result of a storm which during the Crimean war, November 14, 1854, almost destroyed the fleets of France and England. As a storm had raged several days earlier in France, the French minister of war, directed that investigations be made to see if the two storms were the same, and if the progress of the disturbances could have been foretold. It was demonstrated that the two were in reality one storm and that its path could have been ascertained and the fleet forewarned in ample time to reach safety.

CONJURER BROUGHT TO BOOK.

Mr. Mackey, the London conjurer, has been compelled by the courts to make good his offer of £500 to anyone who could imitate his box trick. He had made the offer with impunity for years, but when two young clerks took it up, refused to pay.

CONJURER BROUGHT TO