

LIFE IN A HAREM

INMATES AT THE MERCY OF DESPOTIC WOMAN.

Mother of the Sultan Has Absolute Power of Life and Death Within Its Confines—Cruel Punishment Frequent.

At the present moment, when so much attention is being paid to the question of equal rights for men and women, a passing glimpse into the harem of his serene majesty, Abdul-Hamid, exposes a condition of things hard to believe and still harder to accept.

Curiously enough, however, it is not the sultan who is the most powerful and most dreaded autocrat in his own harem, but the sultan's mother, known by the name of "Valide." It is the sultan's mother who not only regulates every incident of the harem, but possesses the right of life and death over the women in it, and there are almost no known instances in which a sultan has dared to save a favorite from a punishment ordered by "the crown of veiled heads," as the Valide is called in the harem.

And next to the sultan's mother comes, not the sultan's favorite wife, as might be imagined, but the Has-nadar-osta, or grand mistress of finance. The sultan's chief wife, or more correctly speaking, mistress, ranks only third in the order of the harem, and seems to possess, moreover, no real power whatsoever. I use the word mistress, because the sultan, which will probably come as a surprise to the majority of English readers, is not allowed to marry. This extraordinary prohibition dates from the time when a sultan, going upon some holy war, and taking his legitimate wife with him, found her suddenly seized by the enemy and led into captivity. Now, the sultan, being considered the Almighty's descendant and representative on earth, his wife was, of course, sacred, and could not become the property of any lesser creature. Her seizure, therefore, created something like a panic in royal circles. A council was called, and it was decided that henceforward, to avoid repetitions of a similar abomination, no sultan should ever marry.

The members of the harem are still young slaves bought in Circassia, Georgia, Armenia and other places, and practically educated in the harem itself on the chance that the sultan may one day notice them. It appears also that civilization has not made great strides in the management of the royal harem, and that corporal punishments are still frequent, eunuchs, called "beating eunuchs," still being kept for refractory persons. Poisoned coffee is also not entirely out of fashion, while, grimmer still, the terrible sack flung into the Bosphorus even now does its sinister work. It is piteous to learn that, notwithstanding all this, many parents willingly sell their children to supply the enormous colony which constitutes the harem.

But life for a Turkish potentate is at best a troubled circumstance. The fear of assassination is so great that the sultan, it seems, has not for years slept two nights running in the same chamber. The only person aware each night of the room selected is his mother, who secretly gets it ready. Two female slaves also lie, like faithful dogs, extended across the doorway, ready to spring up at the slightest noise or the faintest call from the sovereign. But for fear of treachery even these are chained every night, and never until the last moment know to what part of the palace they are to be sent. The ordinary amusements of the harem are trivial enough, but it is pleasant to learn that some of the women have the deeper joy of motherhood, and that there are children to take care of and watch over.

Not on the Job.

An eminent lawyer with a large practice before the supreme court of the United States enjoys telling of a tremendous jolt to his youthful vanity in the early days when he made a specialty of criminal cases.

He had been retained by a man charged with larceny in Pennsylvania, and as the evidence was conclusive had advised his client to plead guilty. "You have a bad record, you know," said the lawyer, "and you have practically confessed your guilt. I should say that you will be sentenced to about three years."

This last completely dumfounded the accused. He looked about his cell vacantly for several minutes before turning to his attorney. When he did it was to say:

"Will you kindly step out and get me a good lawyer?"—Success.

One Drawback.

"One o' de drawbacks of dishere life," said Uncle Eben, "is de fact dat de call of duty don' very often sound near as loud as de dinner bell."—Washington Star.

A WOMAN'S SUFFERINGS.

A Dreadful Operation Seemed to Be the Only Outcome.

Mrs. Clyde Pixley, Bridge St., Belding, Mich., writes: "I had inflammation of the bladder and the trouble had gone so far in five years that my physicians said nothing but an operation would cure me. Awful bearing down pains, backaches and headaches tortured me, there were spells of dizziness and faintness, the kidney secretions were like blood and passed with intense pain. I had lost 30 pounds when I began using Doan's Kidney Pills, and was dreadfully nervous. In one week I felt better and to-day I am a well woman and have been for a long time."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

WAITING FOR THE FUN.

Youngster Had Reason to Expect "Something Would Happen."

An old gentleman, rather portly and clad in a somewhat youthful suit of light gray flannel, sat on a bench in the park enjoying the day, relates the Woman's Home Companion.

"What's the matter, sonny?" he asked a small urchin who lay on the grass just across the walk and stared intently. "Why don't you go and play?"

"Don't wanter," the boy replied. "But it is not natural," the old gentleman insisted, "for a boy to be so quiet. Why don't you run about?" "Oh, I'm just waitin'," the little fellow answered. "I'm just waitin' till you get up. A man painted that bench about fifteen minutes ago."

Another Variety.

The farmer met his son at the station.

"Back from college, eh, boy?" he drawled.

"Yes, dad," replied the youth, as he lit another cigarette, "and I tell you I am glad to get back. Been digging up Greek roots all the season."

The old farmer went over to the hardware store and bought a grubbing hoe.

"All right, my boy," he announced as he handed over the hoe, "yeou can change yeour exercise during the summer by digging up dogwood and sassafras roots."

Newspaper 500 Years Old.

The oldest newspaper in the world, the King Pao, or News of the Capital, of Peking, will celebrate its five hundredth anniversary this year.

Have Trouble with Your Food?

Try **Grape-Nuts**

Perfectly Cooked, Ready to Serve, Delicious and Healthful

"The ordinary breakfast cereal cooked a few minutes in a half-hearted way will in time weaken the stomach of anything short of an ox.

"Any preparation of wheat or oats put into water that is below the boiling point and cooked as mush is usually served, remains a pasty, indigestible mass. The cells are tough and unopened. In addition, the stomach of a person sensitively constituted refuses to do anything with the pasty mass. It is sent into the second stomach, the Duodenum, where in consequence of the long time of the first process of digestion, is fermented and soured. As an eminent medical man pertinently states, the stomachs of half the people going about the streets are about in the condition of an old vinegar barrel.

"Intestinal dyspepsia is the direct consequence of such feeding." Knowledge of these facts and a wide experience in the preparation and use of cereals brought out the product known as Grape-Nuts, manufactured with special reference to having the nitrogenous and starchy parts of the grains, of which the food is composed, perfectly and scientifically cooked at the factory, ready for immediate use and therefore not subject to the manipulations of any cook, good or bad.

The starch of the grains, changed to grape-sugar, can be seen glistening on the little granules, and gives forth a delicate sweetish taste, very palatable.

Children and adults obtain fine results from the use of Grape-Nuts food. It is so perfectly adapted to the wants of the human body and so easily digested that many cases are on record of nursing babes being fed very successfully on it. "There's a Reason."

Made at the pure food factories of the Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

FIVE FALL INTO GRAVE.

Remarkable Incident That Disturbed Solemnity of Funeral.

Instead of the accustomed quiet which prevails at the burial of the dead, great excitement and fear attended the burial the other day of Michael Sereno, a prominent merchant of Westport, when by the collapsing of a grave the coffin and several persons attending the services were hurled into a small pit.

The final prayer had been said by the preacher, and the assistant to the undertaker stepped to the foot of the coffin to arrange the rope for letting the coffin into the grave. At that moment one of the pallbearers accidentally kicked out the crosspiece that supported the coffin. The coffin quickly descended into the grave, the body going feet first. The assistant hastened its descent by tumbling on it. Several persons rushed to the edge of the grave, causing the soil to yield, and in a few seconds five persons were lying in the pit half covered with dirt.

They were pulled out, the coffin was dug out and laid flat, and after the grave had been redug the burial was completed.—N. Y. Press.

TWO SISTERS HAD ECZEMA.

Cuticura Cured Scalp Troubles of Two Illinois Girls—Another Sister Took Cuticura Pills.

"I must give much praise to all the Cuticura Remedies. I used but one cake of Cuticura Soap and one box of Cuticura Ointment, as that was all that was required to cure my disease. I was very much troubled with eczema of the head, and a friend of mine told me to use the Cuticura Remedies, which I did, and am glad to say that they cured my eczema entirely. My sister was also cured of eczema of the head by using the Cuticura Remedies. Another sister has used Cuticura Resolvent and Pills and thinks they are a splendid tonic. Miss Edith Hammer, R. F. D. No. 6, Morrison, Ill., Oct. 3, '06."

Blackest of All.

The millionaire from Pittsburg was observed to be loitering outside of the pearly gates.

"Why don't you hurry up and knock?" queried a shade.

"I'm waiting for that other chap to get ahead of me," whispered the Pittsburg millionaire.

"And who is he?"

"Why, a grafter from San Francisco. By the side of him I will seem as innocent as a lamb."

Laundry work at home would be much more satisfactory if the right Starch were used. In order to get the desired stiffness, it is usually necessary to use so much starch that the beauty and fineness of the fabric is hidden behind a paste of varying thickness, which not only destroys the appearance, but also affects the wearing quality of the goods. This trouble can be entirely overcome by using Defiance Starch, as it can be applied much more thinly because of its greater strength than other makes.

Strange Bequests.

In his will Stephen Swain of the parish of St. Olave, Southwark, England, gave to John Abbot and Mary, his wife, sixpence each, "to buy for each of them a halter, for fear the sheriffs should not be provided."

John Aylett Stow left the sum of five guineas for the purchase of the picture of a viper biting the hand of his rescuer, to be presented to an eminent K. C. as a reminder of "his ingratitude and insolence."

With a smooth iron and Defiance Starch, you can launder your shirt-waist just as well at home as the steam laundry can; it will have the proper stiffness and finish, there will be less wear and tear of the goods, and it will be a positive pleasure to use a Starch that does not stick to the iron.

Diversified Existence.

An old brick laboratory in Middletown, Conn., which was torn down Saturday, has been put to many uses since its erection in 1825. Originally it was a gunhouse, but it has since been used as a hospital, an eating-house, a carpenter shop, an icehouse, and an electrical laboratory.

Shake Into Your Shoes

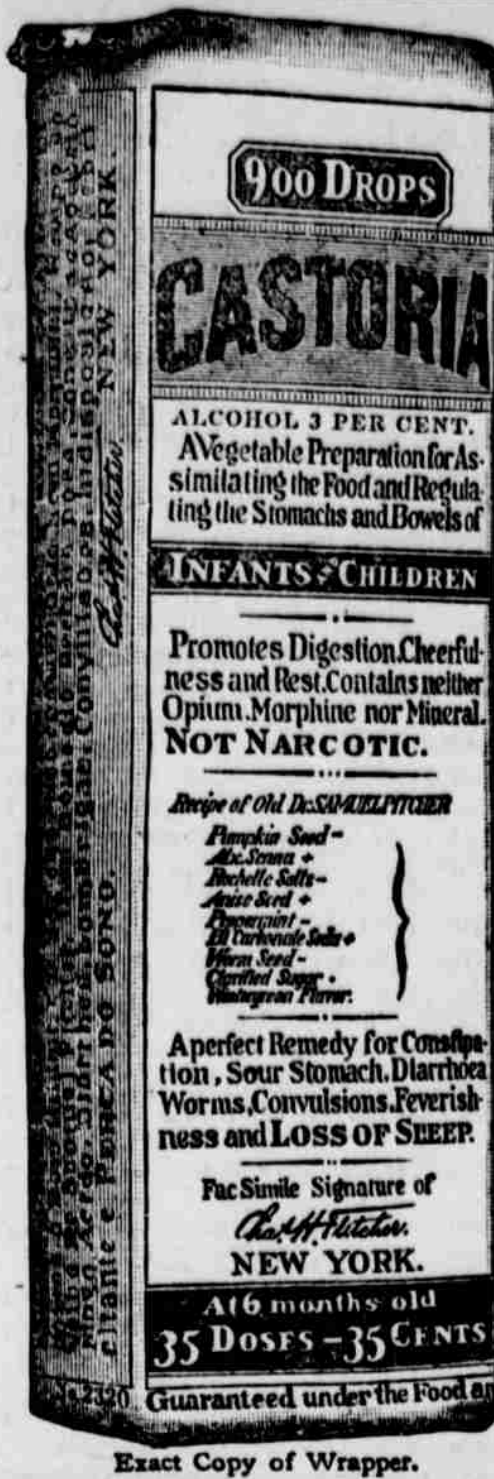
Allen's Foot-Ease. It cures painful, swollen, smarting, sweating feet. Makes new shoes easy. Sold by all Druggists and Shoe Stores. Don't accept any substitute. Sample FREE. Address A. S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Punishment to Fit Crime.

Bigamists in Hungary are compelled to submit to an old punishment. The man who has been silly enough to marry two wives is legally forced to live with both of them in the same house.

Smokers appreciate the quality value of Lewis' Single Binder cigar. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

Love your wife as you love your soul; but shake her as you would shake a plum-tree.—Russian Proverb.



CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature

of *Chas. H. Fletcher.*

In Use For Over Thirty Years

CASTORIA

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Nothing pleases the eye so much as a well made, dainty

Shirt Waist Suit

if properly laundered. To get the best results it is necessary to use the best laundry starch.

Defiance Starch

gives that finish to the clothes that all ladies desire and should obtain. It is the delight of the experienced laundress. Once tried they will use no other. It is pure and is guaranteed not to injure the most delicate fabric. It is sold by the best grocers at 10c a package. Each package contains 16 ounces. Other starches, not nearly so good, sell at the same price per package, but they contain only 12 ounces of starch. Consult your own interests. Ask for DEFIANCE STARCH, get it, and we know you will never use any other.

Defiance Starch Company, Omaha, Neb.

USE THE BEST

FAULTLESS STARCH

FOR LAUNDRY WORK

FOR SHIRTS COLLARS CUFFS AND FINE LINEN

SICK HEADACHE

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

SMALL PILL. SMALL DOSE. SMALL PRICE.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

Genuine Must Bear Fac-Simile Signature

Brewster

REFUSE SUBSTITUTES.

DEFIANCE Cold Water Starch makes laundry work a pleasure. 16 oz. pkg. 10c.

FREE

To convince any woman that Paxtine Antiseptic will improve her health and do all we claim for it. We will send her absolutely free a large trial box of Paxtine with book of instructions and genuine testimonials. Send your name and address on a postal card.

PAXTINE

cleanses and heals mucous membrane affections, such as nasal catarrh, pelvic catarrh and inflammation caused by feminine ills; sore eyes, sore throat, and mouth, by direct local treatment. Its curative power over these troubles is extraordinary and gives immediate relief. Thousands of women are using and recommending it every day. 50 cents at druggists or by mail. Remember, however, IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT.

THE H. PAXTON CO., Boston, Mass.

DEFIANCE STARCH easiest to work with and starches clothes nicest.

W. N. U., LINCOLN, NO. 31, 1907.