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HIS TURKISH BATH.

A Modest Man Takes a Gentle Dig at Oriental Luxury.

Gentle reader, have you ever bathed Turkish bathed? I wot not. I have, woe is me, and I am now a sadder and a cleaner man. If this article, which is meant to be deliciously light and playful, appears to you to be fraught with an underlying seriousness of gloom, do not hastily pass it by, but remember that it's in the interest of science. I have dallied with the luxury of the Orient (so called). Also remember that I have contracted a deep, sonorous cold, which will in all probability fondly nestle in my bosom till my ulster blooms again.
 The preliminaries of the Turkish bath are simple. You pay \$1 at the door and pass into the "cooling room," where the mercury registers 98 degs. The appropriateness of this title does not burst upon you until you have visited the inner shrine, where the temperature is up near the boiling point. In the "cooling room" you are privileged to deposit your "clothes in a safe. I did not avail myself of this boon, however, for reasons of a purely private nature, but passed at once into the "dressing room." This room was not so large as to appear dreary, nor yet so small as some I have lodged in on the Bowery, but was about 7x4. The furniture was simple yet chaste, consisting of a chair and a brush and comb long past their prime. The comb was chained to the wall, but the brush was permitted to roam at will. Hastily divesting myself of sealings, jaegers and other panoplies of rank, I arranged them in a neat pile in the center of the room and placed the chair upon them. This simple precaution I have learned to practice when occupying a room separated from its fellows by low partitions. Your neighbor may be a disciple of Isaac Walton, and during your sleep or absence may take a cast over the partition with hook and line. What could be more embarrassing than to have one's trousers thus surreptitiously removed? I am a lover of the "gentle art" myself, but I am ever loath to be played for a sucker.

I was now ushered into the "hot room," where a number of gentlemen were looting about and perspiring abundantly and fluently. Being of a timid, shrinking nature, I was somewhat embarrassed on entering a room thus filled with strangers, and the more so as I realized that my costume was too bizarre and striking for one of my willow proportions. So I flung myself with an affectation of easy grace upon a marble divan, but immediately arose therefrom with a vivid blush and a large blister. I then sat upon a "roasting chair" until I came to a boil, when I rose up and endeavored to alleviate my sufferings by restlessly pacing the room. A few towels were scattered about, and as the nimble chamberlains kept from creaking to keep me from toweled in my efforts to keep my feet off the red hot floor. Having basked in this room until I was quite aglow, I summoned the attendant and told him he could take me out at once or wait yet a little longer and remove me through a hose. I then passed into the "manipulating room," where I was laid out on an unelastic marble slab like a "found drowned" at the morgue, and was taken in hand by a muscular attendant, who proceeded to manipulate me with great violence. He began upon my chest, upon which he pressed until he lifted his foot off the floor and my shoulder blades made dents in the marble. I mildly asked if it was absolutely necessary that my respiratory organs should be thus flattened, to which he replied, with a rich Turkish accent: "Come off, young fellow, I know my biz," and swooped down upon my digestive organs. Manipulation consists of disjuncting, dismembering, bruising and rending limb from limb, and may be healthful, but it is not popular with me. This man said he was a pianist also, and that he could manipulate and at the same time strengthen his fingers and improve his technique, and to illustrate he struck a few resounding chords in the snails of my back and then proceeded to interpret Wagner scales and down my vertebrae, running scales, twiddling up in the treble and thundering down in the bass, just as if I were the keyboard of a Steinway grand, an illusion doubtless heightened by the ivory whiteness of my skin. He wound up by playing that grand old show off piece, the "Battle of Frague," while I joined in with the "Cries of the Wounded." It was a fine rendering, no doubt, but next time I am to be played upon I shall ask for a soft andante movement—a Chopin nocturne, say.—New York World.

Never Heard of Sullivan.
 Cowboy—Who is this man Sullivan the papers are talking about?
 Omaha Man—My stars! Haven't you heard of Sullivan, the great prize fighter?
 "Fights, eh? I'd like to see him."
 "Yes, he's knocked out more men than"—
 "Knocked out? What's that?"
 "With his fists, you know."
 "Great Buffalo Bill! Who wants to bother with fists in these days of hair triggers?"—
 Omaha World.

Striking a Balance.
 Bagley—Ha, Gagley, squaring up accounts for the year?
 Gagley (gloomily)—Yes.
 Bagley—Hope you come out well.
 Gagley—Well, I've put \$10,000 into the bank.
 Bagley—That isn't so bad. I don't see why you look so glum.
 Gagley—Don't eh? Why, confound it, I've drawn out over \$13,000.—Life.

A Reciprocity Treaty.
 Old Doctor—I was informed last night that your son and my daughter propose to wed if there is no objection.
 Wealthy Undertaker.—So I heard. Good idea ain't it?
 "Think so?"
 "Yes; don't you see? It won't matter then whether you lose patients or not, the money will be in the family."—Omaha World.

Prepared for Anything.
 "Does it not seem a dreadful thing to you when you reflect that it will be many years at the most before you lie down in the silent tomb?" said the tract distributor.
 "Oh, no, no, no," said the jaded looking man; "the silent tomb, dreadful! No, no!"
 "You are prepared, then, I trust, for?"
 "Prepared! I'm prepared for anything. I'm proof reader for a comic paper."—Chicago Tribune.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

The Calendar—Pope Gregory Reckons Ten Days Ahead.

About forty-five years before Christ, Julius Caesar decreed that every fourth year should be held to consist of 366 days, for the purpose of using up the odd hours. Seeing that a day every fourth year was too much, it followed that the beginning of the year moved onward. From the time of the council of Nice, in 325, when the vernal equinox fell correctly on the 21st of March, Pope Gregory found, in 1582, that there had been an over reckoning to the extent of ten days, and at that time the vernal equinox fell on the 11th of March. To correct this, he decreed that the 5th of October of that year should be reckoned as the 15th, and to keep the years right in the future, the over-plus being eighteen hours, twenty-seven minutes and ten seconds in a century, he ordered that every centennial year that could not be divided by 400 should not be bissextile, as it otherwise would be. The Gregorian calendar was decreed by Pope Gregory in 1582 on this basis, and was readily adopted by Catholic, though not by Protestant, countries. It did not obtain in Great Britain until 1752, by which time the difference between the Julian and Gregorian periods amounted to eleven days. An act of parliament was passed, dictating that the 3d of September that year should be reckoned the 14th, and that three out of every four of the centennial years should, as in Pope Gregory's arrangement, not be bissextile or leap years. The Gregorian calendar is in use in all civilized countries except Russia.

The Language of Stamps.
 It is understood that when a stamp is inverted on the right hand upper corner it means that the person written to is to write a desire for acquaintances, and when placed on the lower left hand corner means a desire for friendship. It is said that those who are expert in this mode of indication, when a correspondent requests the person to whom he writes to accept his love, the stamp is placed on a line with the surname, and if the response is favorable the stamp is placed at the same spot, but reversed. Farewell to a sweetheart is expressed by placing the stamp straight up and down in the left hand corner, and the continuance of the endearing relation is expressed in the same way. There are also erudite explanations as to the meaning of stamps resting on one corner and various degrees of angles on various places on the envelope; but what has been furnished will probably suffice for a foundation.

Indorsement of Bank Checks.
 A check drawn upon a bank payable to bearer is in a different position from a check drawn to order, although the latter may be indorsed by the person to whom it is payable before it is presented, or by the maker himself. Banks are justified in taking all proper means to avoid impositions upon themselves or customers. A check drawn to order and subsequently indorsed, is not, in our opinion, in the same position as a check drawn to bearer. The latter is, by the act of the drawer, made payable to anybody, and the bank is thereby notified, in effect that caution need not be made in ascertaining the right of the person who claims the payment. But a check drawn to order, even although it may be the order of the maker and indorsed by him blank, can only legally be the property of the person entitled under the indorsement. The fact of the indorsement may be taken to be a notification to the bank to be careful in ascertaining the right of the person who claims the money. Under such circumstances, it seems to us that the officers of the bank would be justified in requiring some proof or satisfaction as to the right of the person presenting the check to claim the amount.

The Earliest American Artist.
 The first artist known to fame in the United States was John Watson. This we learn from William Dunlap's "History of the Arts of Design," where it is stated that Watson is the first painter of whom mention is made in the annals of American art. John Watson came from Scotland to Perth Amboy in 1715, and died there in 1798, at the age of 83 years. He brought over a large number of paintings, and with these and many that he executed himself, he formed the first art gallery in this country. As he advanced in years he became extremely penurious and was totally blind for some time before his death. He owned two houses at Perth Amboy, one of which he used exclusively for his paintings, occupying the other as his residence. It is stated as somewhat of a coincidence that this house, which stood on the site of the present seminary, was subsequently occupied by another artist, William Dunlap, with whom originated the idea of the National Academy of Design.

Gilderoy's Kite.
 The phrase "As High as Gilderoy's Kite" is supposed to have the following origin: Gilderoy, whom Bishop Percy calls "the Robin Hood of Scotland," was a noted freebooter who infested the highlands of Perthshire with his gang, and upon seven of his men being captured by the Stewarts of Athol, who executed them in February, 1638, Gilderoy burned several houses belonging to them out of revenge. A reward of \$1,000 was then offered for his apprehension, and he was closely pursued, and eventually, with five of his companions, suffered for his crimes at Galliole, near Edinburgh, in July, 1638. There is no reference concerning any kite, and we presume that the phrase originated from the fact that Gilderoy was suspended at an unusual height, for, as the ballad says, he was "hung high above the rest."

Can't Open Each Other's Letters.
 According to the United States Postal Law and the Revised Statutes, neither a husband nor a wife has a right to open the other's letters, and the one that does it may be prosecuted under section 3892 of the revised statutes for so doing.

Points in Social Usages.
 Never whisper in company. Never talk to one person across another, nor allow a servant to pass things in front of a person at table.
 Send your visiting card in an envelope to the hostess at the time of a reception, but do not send regrets.
 It is customary to take leave of your hostess at an afternoon reception unless the crowd is too great.
 The gentlemen's family call upon his fiancée as soon as an engagement is made known.
 A Prince Albert frock represents a dress coat for daytime. The swallow tail is never worn by day; it is exclusively the evening dress coat.

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

Safe and Painless Surgery of the Present.
 Anesthetics Contrabanded.

Anesthetics have rendered even grave surgical operations almost painless, and other modern improvements have rendered them comparatively safe. Changes in surgical methods within a single decade amount almost to a revolution, and it is important that this should be understood, for patients, from a fear that was once very reasonable, are liable to put off operations until too late.
 There used to be a great and ever present danger of suppuration and consequent blood poisoning. Suppuration was looked on as inevitable. But science now shows that no suppuration is possible unless the germs of it are introduced from without. The germs were formerly introduced with the hand of the operator, or those of his assistants, or by his instruments, his threads, his sponges, his plasters or his bandages; or they floated in with the infected air, with which every hospital was specially charged.
 It is now known that various solutions destroy all such germs. The operating room is therefore kept disinfected. So are the surgeon and attendants, especially their hands and nails. Instruments and sponges are taken, at using, directly from the carbolic solution. Plasters and bandages, and all ligatures for tying blood vessels and sewing up wounds, are rendered aseptic. The skin of the patient is scrubbed with soap and water, and the parts adjacent to the wound covered with disinfecting towels.
 According to medical authority, the wound is now dressed with no expectation that fever will arise, or that suppuration will occur, or that the dressing will require renewal. The patient eats and sleeps well from the first, and the surgeon removes the dressing only to find the wound united, and this, too, though the largest wounds are fully sewed up, and without drainage tubes.

Wholesomeness of Canned Fruits.
 According to Popular Science, Mr. T. P. White gives, in a communication to the Chemical society, a decidedly negative answer to the question whether the acids of canned fruits may not form poisonous salts with the tin. He reports, as the result of his experiment, that "tin is entirely devoid of danger, when taken internally, in any form that might arise from being in contact with fruit or vegetables." He believes that the cases of accidental poisoning were due to solder or other impurities—arsenic, copper or lead. Professor W. Matthew Williams says that there need be no lead in the solder; that it is only put in for cheapness' sake, and that tin makes a superior solder for an alloy. Therefore, all danger may be obviated by prohibiting the use of any other solder than pure tin.

Chewing Gum Condemned.
 A St. Louis physician denounces the idea that chewing gum is an aid to digestion. Any well informed physiologist, he says, will deny this at once. Chewing gum produces a flow of saliva into the stomach at a time when it is not needed by that organ. The saliva burdens the stomach, and forces it to abnormal action to get rid of it, and at the same time the salivary glands are robbed of the secretion, and obliged to do double work to produce the saliva necessary for mastication and digestion. So far as the stomach is concerned, chewing gum is as injurious as chewing tobacco.

To Soften and Whiten the Hands.
 To overcome the roughening effect of keeping the hands much in water, especially where the water is hard, dogskin or prepared French gloves are worn at night. Glycerine and rosewater, cold cream and washing with almond powder, are also resorted to for beautifying the hands.

Mental Overwork.
 If a student, young or old, dreams or talks of his studies in his or her sleep it is time to call a halt. Turn the attention to something else and diminish the hours of mental application. If you don't an enervated system and a weakened intellect will be the inevitable result.

A Safe Mustard Plaster.
 It is claimed that if mustard be mixed with the white of an egg, instead of water, a plaster may be made which will draw thoroughly without blistering.

One Thing and Another.
 Take cod liver oil in tomato catsup.
 Snuff powdered borax or alum to clear the head in catarrh or catarrhal cold.
 To remove warts rub with lemon juice several times a day.
 When you have occasion to use cloths wet in hot water about an invalid, try steaming them and thus avoid the difficult task of wringing them out in hot water.
 When the purity of water is suspected, and no other can be obtained, it should be boiled before using it.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE

Prospectus for 1888—Beautiful Christmas Number.
 Among the important articles to appear during the year 1888 are the following—Send for prospectus;

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON will contribute regularly to each number during the year. He will write of many topics, old and new, and in a familiar, a personal way, which will form new bonds of friendship between the author and his thousands of readers. In his first paper entitled "A Chapter on Dreams," appearing in the January number, he relates incidentally, in connection with the general subject, some interesting facts concerning the origin of the now famous story, "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS, by W. S. CHAPLAIN, will be the first of an especially important and interesting series of papers on railways, their administrations and construction, including great engineering feats, famous tunnels and passes and, indeed, those branches of the subject which in this day engage the attention of the whole country. The illustrations which will accompany this series will be very elaborate, original, and beautiful. The authors and the titles of the future articles will be announced later.

DR. D. A. SARENT'S papers on Physical Proportions and Physical Training will be continued by several of increasing interest, with as rich and unique illustration as those which have already appeared.

ILLUSTRATED ARTICLES of special interest will be those on the Campaign of Waterloo, by JOHN C. ROPES; on "The Man at Arms," by E. H. BLASHFIELD; two papers by EDWARD L. WILSON, illustrating results of recent Egyptian research; a further article by WILLIAM F. APTAORP, on a subject connected with his recent contribution on Wagner, and many other of equal interest. PROFESSOR SHALER'S articles on the Surface of the Earth will be continued and articles upon two of the most interesting groups of contemporary European writers will be accompanied by rich and novel portrait illustrations.

ELECTRICITY in its various applications as a motive power EXPLOSIVES, etc., will be the subjects of another group of illustrated articles of equal practical interest, by leading authorities upon three topics.

MENDELSSOHN'S LETTERS written to his friend, Moscheles, at a peculiarly interesting time of his career, will furnish the substance of several articles of great interest to musical readers, which will be illustrated with portraits and drawings from Mendelssohn's own hand.

THE FICTION will be strong, not only in the work of well-known writers but in that of new authors, in securing whose co-operation the Magazine has been so fortunate during its first year of publication. A serial novel, entitled "First Harvest," by FREDERIC J. STIMSON, will be begun in the January number, and early in the year no. eties will be published by HENRY JAMES and H. C. BUNNER. The short stories are of noticeable strength and freshness.

ILLUSTRATIONS. The Magazine will show increased excellence in its illustrations. They will be more abundant and elaborate than ever. It is the intention of the publishers to represent the best work of the leading artists, and to promote and foster the most skillful methods of wood engraving.

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