THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: SUNDAY JUNE 2, 1889.-SIXTEEN PAGES.

10

ALONG INDIA'S HOLY RIVER

The Mighty Ganges and Its Thous-

ands of Worshipers.

WITH THE BATHERS AT BENARES.

A Religion Which Teaches Cleanliness-A Million Years of Heaven For a Hair-The Wheat Plains of India.

A Wonderful Stream.

[Copyrighted 18-9 by Frank G. Carpenter. BENARES, April 3, 1889 .- During the past three weeks I have traveled six hundred miles around the holy Ganges river and the click of my typewriter now falls upon the air in unison with the prayers and the splashing of the thousands of pilgrims who are bathing in its waters. Benares is the Mecca of the Hindoos and the Ganges is to the Indian more than the Jordan is to the Christian. On the top of a house boat with six red-turbanned, black-faced, and barelegged rowers, I slowly drifted past the bathing ghats this morning. The sun was just rising and over fields of green extending for miles away on the left of the river its rays came to gild the brass jars which each pilgrim carried. It turned the semi-bare brown skins of the men women and children to a rich mahogany and brought out the shadows in the fort-like walls of the temples lining the other side of the river. It was a scene for a painter. The wonderful colors of oriental humanity mixed with the glorious red of nature filled one almost with a feeling of worship, and the muttering of the prayers of thousands with their strange incantations and mysterious postures threw an indescribable wierdness over the scene. Fantastic and foolish as some of the actions seemed, I could not forget that this spot is to one-sixth of the human race the holiest place on the surface of the whole world, that out of every six men, women and children on God's good earth one believes that if he washes here

HIS SINS FLOAT AWAT on these waters to the sea, and that if his

ashes are here burned his soul goes straight to heaven. If the Hindoo in accents of prayer utters the name of this river within one hundred miles of its banks the act atones for the sins of three previous lives, and if he has his head shaved at a point which liss two hours ride by train from where I am now writing, and the hairs fall into the stream, for every hair that floats away he will have a million years in paradise. This place is at Allahabad, where the river Jumna flowes into the Ganges, and here at certain times of the year thousands of Hindoos may be seen on the banks of the river holding their heads over the water and allowing barbers to shave them, as it were, into heaven.

And do the people really believe this! assure you they do, and their belief is a practical one, too. It is not a faith without works by any means. This town of Benares has a population as big as that of Cleveland. Cincinnati or Washington, Just now the mornings are cold and the air is raw and piercing. It is the duty of every one of these people to come before their breakfasts and bathe in the Ganges. I found the banks of the river filled with them this morning. The city lies close to the river and for three miles along its banks are great temples. from the walls of which stone steps lead down into the Ganges, going under the water and out into the bed of the stream. Each or these temples has perhaps one hundred of these steps from its base to the water, and these three miles of such steps were filled with worshipers. All were Hindoos, and none were clothed in anything but the thinest of cottons. There were shriveled old men and women wrapped around in the single breadth of dirty white cotton, standts in water and their long, thin, bony arms upwards while with chattering teeth they muttered prayers to the gods Siva and Vishnu. Now and then they ducked down into the water and as they came up they gasped and looked colder than ever. There were plump girls, whose nut-brown skins glistened as the water trickled down them and whose bright eves flashed a half rougish GLANCE AT ME BETWEEN THEIR PRAYERS. As they raised their arms I noted that each had gold and silver bracelets upon them and some of the country maidens had bracelets one after another from the wrist to the elbow and from thence on to the shoulders. Many wore great nose rings, and as they threw back their heads I could see that their ears were punctured with many holes and that each hole contained a bit of gold or silver. Most of them, however, hid their faces and not a few were high caste Hindoo maidens. As they stepped out of the water their bare limbs shone under the sunlight and against the dark brown back ground flashed heavy silver anklets. They did not bathe with the men and as a rule they hudalled up in little groups by themselves. At many of the temples there were ledges built out over the river and here men gathered up water in their hands and mutter prayers over it. Each man and woman had a brass far, and as they left their bathing they carried some of the holy water to aid them in their wor ship in the temples. There were thousands of maid servants carrying great bowls of Ganges water on their heads and steadying the burden with one brown, bare arm as they walked up the steps. The costume of the Hindoo is a picturesque one. It is one long strip of cloth wound about the person so that the legs and arms are bare. Sometimes bright colored shawls are added by the wealthier and a bright turban or cap covers the head. Mixed with this gaudy, splashing, sputter ing throng just above the water were square nches covered with umbrellas as large as the top of a summer house and under these sat wrinkled old priests with boxes of red paint beside them. Each worshiper came to these priests as he finished his bath and the priest, dipping his finger into the paint box, made one, two or three marks upon his forehead. These marks were to remain on until the next day's bathing and they were the signs of the gods Among the bathers were peddlers of Ganges water. These carry the holy fluid in jars to villages far out in the country and each pil-Frim who comes takes a load home to his

magnificent distances. From Calcutta to Bombay is as far as as from London to Na-ples, or about the distance that New York is from Denver. The distance between Iceland pies, or about the distance that New Fork is from Denver. The distance between Iceland and Spain is just about as far as a straight line from the Himalayas to the apex of the triangle and the area of the whole is equal to the size of Europe without Russia, or nearly one-half of the United States. It is a country of mountains and valleys. The lower part and the greater part of the center is an immense table land and between this table land and the Himalaya mountains there is a wide strip of vast plains through which the mighty Ganges runs and the bulk of which has been made by the rich fertilizing earth which she has brought down from the mountains. There is no doubt but that in the far distant past the greater part of India was an island, and if you could sink these Ganges plains five hundred feet downward the sea would rush in and the Himalayas would be divided from the plateau of South aud Cendivided from the plateau of South and Cendivided from the plateau of South and Cen-tral India. These plains are the richest part of India. They are the most thickly popu-lated and it is from them that a great bulk of the rice and wheat of India comes. The wheat area of India is increas-ing year by year. It is now about equal to the wheat area of the United States and its product comparison with the America wheat product competes with the America wheat in the markets of London. For this reason these plains are doubly interesting to Amer-icans and the influence of the Ganges is felt

more and more every year in the stock ex-change of Chicago. The Ganges not only made but she nourishes these plains. She is called by the Hin-doos "Mother Ganga." From her source in the Himalayas to her mouth in the Bay of Bengal, she has a fail of more than two and one-half miles, and as a fertilizing bearer

SHE SURPASSES ANY RIVER on the face of the globe. Egypt is the gift of the Nile. You can lose Egypt in these plains, which are the gift of the Ganges. The mighty Nile, with its unknown source, does not carry down as much water as this holy river of the Hindoos and her maximum discharge at a distance of 400 miles from the sea, with many of her tributaries yet to hear from, is one-third greater than that of the Mississippi. Where the Ganges rises bursting forth from a Himalayain glacier it is twenty-seven feet wide. It falls 3,500 feet in the first ten miles of its re tails a solution in the maximum of the main of the tails of tails of the tails of tail gram for 200 miles more, where they unite. The water of the Bay of Bengal is discol-ored for miles by the mud brought down by the Ganges, and the whole country is fertilized by it.

The water is the color and thickness of pea soup, and the site or mud is so rich that these vast plains use no other fertilizer. The crops are harvested by pulling the stalks out of the ground. No cows or horses are allowed to pasture in the fields and their droppings are mixed with straw and mud and then dried and used as fuel. In this Ganges valley nature is always giving, but never gotting. Every atom of natural fer-tilizer, save this Ganges silt, is taken from the soil. Still the land is as rich as guano, and it produces from

TWO TO FOUR CROPS EVERY YEAR. About Calcutta the alluvial deposit is 400 feet deep, and an experiment was lately made to get to the end or it. A well was sunk, but at the distance of 281 feet the auger broke. At this point the end of this rich soil had not been reached. The amount of fertilizing material brought down by the Ganges has been lately estimated, and scien-tiffe investigation shows that some distance tific investigation shows that some distance above the point where it unites with the Brahmaputra its yearly burden is the enor-mous amount of 355,000,000 tons. A thousand-ton ship is by no means small, and a fleet of 850,000 such ships could not carty this burden. The average freight car is thirty-four feet long and it takes a strong car to carry fifty tons. Suppose our freight cars to be sixteen feet longer than they are. Load upon each car fifty tons of this fertilizing mud and it would take a train of more than seven million such cars to carry the yearly fertilizing output of this great river. If these cars were on a single track the track would have to be 67,400 miles long. It would reach twice around the earth and leave reach twice around the earth and leave enough cars to run two continuous trains through the center. The most of this silt comes down during four months of the year and if there were daily fleets of 2,000 ships each containing 1,400 tons of mud during these four months they would just carry it. But this is the work of the Ganges alone. It is five times as much as is carried by the Mississippi to the gulf and further down the river, where the great Brahmaputra joins i and flows out into its hundred mouths the sil output is still greater. During the rainy season alone the river here carries out enough silt to load 13,000 ships with 1,400 tons each every day for four months. During the rainy season this whole delta of the Ganges is covered with water to the extent of about thirty feet. You see only the tops of th trees and villages which are built upon the hills and the river further up the country is diverted by canals from its course to every part of these vast plains. The best of the wheat is irrigated and the water being allowed to lie upon the land drops the fertilizer and enriches it. All over India, or through thee. the part I have traveled, I see this irrigation even now going on. Much of it is done in the most primitive way. Two half-naked men stand just above the river with a basket hung by long ropes between them. Th basket is water-tight and by a swinging m tion they scoop it down into the river and lift the water up into a canal above, from whence it runs off into other canals over the fields Here at Benares bullocks are largely used The water is stored in great wells and it is drawn from them in skin bowls, each of which holds about a bushel of water. The bowl is a pig's skin kept open with a hoop o wood and to its top by four strings is fasten ed a rope. This rope runs over a rude pulle at the top of the well and at a distance o twenty feet from it, it is tied to the yoke of : bullock, which, led by a man, raises the bucket to the top of the well. Here it is pulled over into a trough. I am told that this mode of irrigation is faster and cheaper that any of the machine methods employed and I see it everywhere. Of late years the Eng lish have been spending immense sums in irrigating India, and millions of acres of new land have been brought under irrigation. In 1889 MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLAR was spent in Bengal alone, and the wheat lands are found to produce best in those provinces which can be irrigated. I do not remember the average wheat produc-tion of the United States per acre, but I think it is larger than that of India. Here it only thirteen bushels per acre and the wheat is not more than a foot high. The heads of the grain, however, are well filled out though it is not worth as much in Mark Lane as the better classes of Australian or California wheat. I had always looked upon India as a rice-eating country. I find that a great number of the people here eat wheat and grain. In northwestern India only about 10 per cent of the people cat rice and in the prison at Agra I found that the prisoners were fed upon grain. Everywhere the mass of the people seem to be underfed and the leanest, scrag-glest specimens of humanity I have ever seen I find in this rich valley of the Ganges. Where nature has done everything, the peo-ple are starving and you can have no idea of the skin and bone men and boys, whom I see daily by the thousands. The costume of the people is such that the arms and legs and often the breasts and waists are bare. There I had always looked upon India as a rice people is such that the arms and legs and often the breasts and waists are bare. There seems to be nothing but skin, bones and sinews, and the average thigh is not bigger than a muscular American biceps. There are no calves whatever and the joints at the knees and the ankles are extraordinarily large. Nearly every man you meet, if he be poor, has wrinkles in his belly and at every railroad station you find gaunt, dark-faced, pitcous, lean men, who SLAP THEIR BARE STOMACHS to show that they are hollow and ask for backshish. Wages are miserably low. Farm laborers get from 6 to 8 cents a day and masons 10 cents a day. Even trave lers, who have to pay the highest wages, can get good English speaking servants who will travel with them and feed themselves for 33 cents a day and less them that if taken to the cents a day and less than that if taken by the month. This valley of the Ganges has more people than it can support and it is probably the most densely populated part of the world. The people five in villages, and the average town consists of one-story mud huts too poor and illy ventilated for American pig pens. You would not think of having such out-houses as the rasidences of the majority of this vast population would make, and a large part of India, and especially in the best part of this Ganges country the holdings average from two to three acres apiece. At four to the family, this represents a half acre per per on or over twelve hundred persons for square mile. When it is remembered that these month.

people live by agriculture it will be seen th 2 this condition is far worse than that of China or any part of Europe. And still the people are bright. They are brainy, too, and you will find few sharper business men, better cut faces and more polite people than these peo-ple of India. Their faces in this part of India have much the same characteristics as those of the Anglo Saxon. Those of the higher castes are more like those of the Greek and 1 see faces every day which, if the skin were white, any American might be proud to own. They belong to the same race germ that we d and under the same training and christian influences they would be strong competitors with us. But what can a man do on six cents a day, or how can a man learn when he has to struggle to exist? The population of India is continually increasing. England eats the lion's share of the products of the country and though the people are perhaps better off under her government than they have been in the past, it is the same old story of her wealth going to the rulers and the people working their flesh off their bones to support them. The governor general of India, who by the way, is the rich Marquis of Lansdown, gets \$100,000 a year. Quite a contrast with the wages of the masses at six contrast day. Let't til

> FRANK G. CARPENJER. BRAVE GIRLS WERE THEY.

cents a day. Isn't it?

Killing Two Big Rattlesnakes That

Attacked Them in the Woods. Two young ladies residing near Web ster, a few miles south of this city, in Hancock conuty, met with a terrible adventure to-day while hunting wild blossoms in the deep timber which sur-

rounds that locality, writes a LaHarpe, Ill., correspondent. The girls-for Ill., correspondent. The girls-for they are not more than eighteen or nineteen years old-set out early this morning, hoping to gather many wild blossoms to be used in decorating a school house. They chose to go deep into the timber, and close to the locality known as"Crooked Creek Bottoms, which in the early spring is prolific with wild blossoms and flowers, not to say hideous and deadly reptiles. The young misses, however, had lit-tle fear of snakes, as they had been told that the season was too early. So they flitted about from one patch of posies to another, gathering the pretty ferns and blossoms, and now and then a delicate wild flower in some hidden nook. Thus were they busily engaged when Alice, who had preceded her companion a little way, uttered a series of screams.

"Maud! a snake! a horrid big snake! Strange to say, Maud did not run and She hurriedly grasped a heavy cream. dead limb lying close by and hurried to where her companion was holding her skirts and screaming in terror. There, within ten feet of them, lay a huge rat-tlesnake coiled to strike. The creature darted out its deadly fangs again and again, while its rattles gave incessant warning. "Stay right where you are, Alice,"

whispered Maud. "I'll slip around and kill it with this club. Pick up that big stick there, so as to be ready if I fail. Quietly and bravely did this young miss creep around behind his snakeship. Then a well-directed blow, accompanied by a little scream, was delivered upon the head of the venomous rattler. But it was not sufficient to cause death, and Maud was aiming another blow when the horrified screams of Alice claimed her attention. "Maud! Maud! here is another one-

monster. Come, quick!" But Maud was now battling with the first snake, whsch had turned upon her. In the meantime Alice made a furious onslaughter upon the second rattler. beating the huge snake to the ground as it rose up time and again. Both girls fought heroically for a full half-hour, finally killing both snakes. One rattler measured ten feet in length and the other seven.

The girls are now the heroines of this part of Hancock county. It was not known that snakes of this size were numerous hereabouts, but it is now thought that Crooked Creek bottoms are full of them. Some of the farmers talk of organizing a snake-hunting expedition to clean out the reptiles, as it MADRID STREETS AT NIGHT. The Dons Do Their Sleeping in the Day Time.

BEAUTIFUL LADIES OF SPAIN. They Are Seen at Their Best on th

Lovely Promenades of the Prado-Living in the Past.

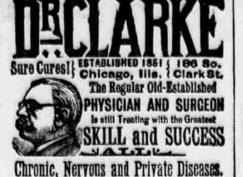
Like a Poet's Dream.

I know of few more picturesque situ ations for a city than that of Madrid, says the correspondent of a New York paper. Lying at an elevation of about twenty-five hundred feet above the level of the sea and in the neighborhood of a range of mountains which, even in summer, are crowned with snow, the capital of Spain is partly encircled by the romantic Manzanares, which flows close to the city walls.

Madrid is rapidly divesting itself of its Moorish character and three-fourths of the city have already assumed an essentially modern aspect. This is especially true of the heart of the "cindad," the square known as "Puerta de Sol," where ten streets and all the tramway lines meet, and whence they diverge in different directions like so many arteries. The importance of this square lies in the fact that it is the heart of Madrid and the center of its traffic. Here are situated the principal government buildings, hotels, restaurants and cafes. It is here that Madrilenians and extranjeras rendezvous to gossip, and politicians congregate to discuss and settle the affairs of the nation. The restaurants and cafes are very large, but not so elegant as those of either Paris, Berlin, Wien or Roma, nor is the coffee as good, but the chocolate and sherbet are most delicious. are no newspapers at the disposal of the customers of these different places of resort, but any one can buy the local sheets at the door, where there is gen-erally a small newstand. Most of the Spanish dailes sell at 1 cent, but they contain very little of interest to foreigners. All classes meet in these restaurants and cafes on equal terms. The peasant, the shoeblack and the scavenger think they have as much claim to the title of caballeros as the politician, the dude and the officer. In these places of public resort prevails a curious custom, which may be an old relic of Moorish days in Spain—guests call the atten tion of the waiters by clapping their hands or whistling, as one does when

calling a dog. But the "dons" have more than one peculiarity, and old habits have taken such a strong hold of the people that it is next to 'impossible to eradicate them. Indeed, it 'seems to me that the Pyrenees are to 'the Spaniards what the great walls of China are to the Chinese, a bulwark behind which people entrench themselves and resist innovations. Spain is fully 100 years behind any other European country. Worse than Russia, where the eighteenth century belougs itself; for Spain's 100 years of backwardness are grafted in three dark centuries. Three-fourths of the people can neither read nor write as yet, but are well satisfied so long as bull fights and other barbarous institu-

tions are kept up. Generally speaking Madrilenians sleep in the day time and move about at night. Indeed, the streets of the city are well-nigh deserted from 10 a.m. till 6 or 7 o'clock in the evening, when every one hastens to the Prado, the great public promenade of Mad-rid, to enjoy the cool and fragrant



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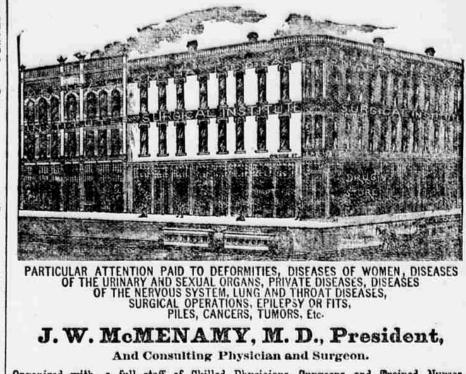
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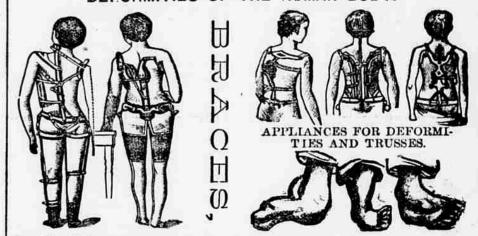
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But it is not alone at Benares that the Ganges is holy. From its source in the Him-layas, where it is supposed to flow from the BIG TOE OF VIBHNU.

all along the winding fifteen hundred miles All along the winding fifteen hundred miles of its course, its waters are sacred and puri-fying. I found thousands bathing at Cal-butta and many Hindoos make a six years' pilgrimage from the source of the river to its mouth. There are hundreds of places upon its banks which like Benares, are es-pecially sacred, and there is an island at the mouth which is annually visited by a large number of pilgrims. This is known as the sland of sugar. At Allababad the Hindoos say there are three rivers which come to-rether. One of these is the Jumna, the ther is the Ganges, and the third comes di-rect from beaven and is invisible to mortal ayes.

It is a wonderful river, and how wonder-ful it is, it is impossible to knew without un-derstanding the geography of this semi-sontinent of India. If you will take your map of Asia you will find that India is much the shape of an conflation training is much the shape of an equilateral triangle, the base of which is the Himalaya mountains and the spex of which rests in the Indian ocean. Lack side of this triangle is nearly two thou-and miles long and two sides of it are al-host bounded by water. It is a country of

s considered dangerous for any one to visit the bottoms when the snake season breezes and stroll about through the arrives. The young ladies who are the heroines of the adventure begged so hard that their names be suppressed that the wish is granted. It is believed that many men would have fled from these two snakes, but the brave girls stood their ground.

Benjamin Franklin's Maxims. Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep

Creditors have better memories than lebtors. Foolish men make feasts and wise mer

eat them. When the well is dry they know the worth of water. What maintainsone vice will bring up

wo children. If you would have your business done go: if not, send. Silks and satins, silks and velvets put

out the kitchen fire. Not to oversee workmen is to leave hem your purse open.

Want of care does us more damage than want of knowledge. If you would know the value of money

ry to borrow some. By diligence and perseverence the mouse eats the cable in two.

Experience keeps a dear school, bu fools will learn in no other. Now I have a sheep and a cow, every-

ody bids me good morrow. Early to bed, early to rise, makes man healthy, wealthy and wise. For age and want save while you

may, no morning sun lasts all the day. Work to-day, for you know not how much you may be hindered to-morrow. pleasure and it will follow you Ely The diligent spinner has a large shift Diligence is the mother of good luck: and God gives all things to industry Industry needs not wish, and he that ves upon hope will die fasting.

There are no gains without pains; then help hands, for I have no lands. Lying rides upon debt's back; it is hard for an empty bag to stand upright Buy what thou hast no need of, and ere long thou wilt sell thy necessaries. He that by the plow would thrive, himself must either (both) hold drive.

Women and wine, game and deceit. make the wealth small and the want great.

At a great pennyworth pause awhile; many are ruined by buying bargains. If you would have a faithful servant and one that you like, serve yourself. For want of a nail the shoe was lost. and for want of a shoe the horse wa

Plow deep while sluggards sleep; and you shall have corn to sell and to keep. Who dainties love shall beggars prove. Fools lay out money and buy

repentance. Always taking out of the meal tub and never putting in soon comes to the bottom.

Drive thy business, let not that drive thee. Sloth makes all things difficult, industry all easy.

If you feel unable to do your work, and have that tired feeling, take Dr. J. H. McLean's Sarsaparilla; it will make you bright, active and vigorous.

There will be a spectacular production of "The Great Metropolis," a melodrama by George Jessop and Ben Teale, in Prootor's Twenty-third street theatre, New York, next autumn, with a view to a long run.

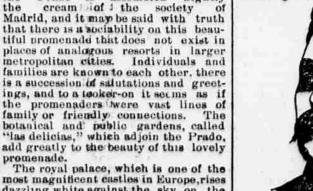
Ladies never have any dyspepsia after a wine glass of Angostura Bitters, the genuine of Dr. J. G. B. Siegert & Fons. Ask your druggist.

spacious park and lovely gardens. The procession to the Prado is a bit of genine Spanish local color in cosmopolitan Madrid. Many either ride or drive, and no other city in the world can turn out so many teams of Andalusian horses as proud and as graceful as their masters and mistresses. The Prado, at full promenade time, and especially the evenings of Sundays and holy days, pre sents an animated and most interesting scene. How gracefully the senors and senoritas flutter along the gay parterre where many colored uniforms and diversified costumes sprout out in every direction to divert and do homage to them. Here assemble the beauties of every part of Spain, and in no other country in the world can there be seen

brighter display of female lovlines than of the Prado of Madrid. Although the French fashionable bonnets are gradually invading Spain and becoming much in vogue among the Spanish belles, the elegant national costume, the mantilla, is still predominat ing. It is worn and arranged with a natural grace which enchants the beholder. A Spanish lady seems always to have some little matter to adjust which sets off to advantage the quie elegance of her deportment. The mantilla is drawn a little more forward on gently moved a little less; it is crossed in front or uncrossed, and through its transparent network of blonde lace and seen the lovely head and beautiful throat rising from a bust of most elegant contour. These mantillas are both white and black, but the latter are, to

my taste, the most becoming. And the abanico! the fan! Oh, what magic there is in that little zephyrcoaxing telegraph! Folded and unfolded with a careless ease which none but Spanish women can display, moved quickly in recognition of a passing friend, elevated, opened over the head to frame it, so to speak, the fan plays an important and most attractive part in the hand of a Spanish lady. During the delightful summer nights, when the moon sheds her pure light around, the Prado presents the most romantic pic-ture. Canopied by the blue vault of heaven, with all its bright spangles.

many a love tale is there told and listened to with favor. In the Prado the hassembled nightly



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