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AN ANCIENT BOOK PREFACE.

Among literary curiosities there is none perhaps more interesting than the introductions with which writers of the olden time prefaced their books. A case in point is the old Persian Shaikh Sa'di's preface to his Gulistan, or Garden of Roses, which has been translated from the Persian by Sir Edwin Arnold, and is now published by Harper & Brothers in America for the first time. It was written over six hundred years ago, and has long been considered the greatest of the Persian classics. The preface is a gem of literature, and is not marred by the false modesty which characterizes the majority of latter-day prefaces. It is as follows:

"By Allah's help now is concluded this my book, entitled The Garden of Roses. From beginning to end I have shunned that evil habit of authors who collect from by-gone scriptures the things they write:

"Better wear rags that are entirely thine

Than falsely in a borrowed garb to shine."

"These words of Sa'di shall be found, in the larger part, mirthful and mixed with pleasantry, for which reason certain of the more purblind folk shoot out a tongue of reproach, saying that to tickle the marrow of the brain foolishly, and to swallow smoke of the lamp unprofitably, is not the part of the wise. Yet will men of light and learning, from whom the true countenance of a discourse is not concealed, be well aware that herein the pearls of good counsel which heal are threaded on strings of right sense; that the bitter physic of admonition is constantly mingled with the honey of good humor, so that the spirits of listeners grow not sad, and that they remain not exempt from blessings of acceptance.

"Oh thou that readest this book, implore for its author the mercy of God, and pardon for him that did transcribe it. It is finished through the might and succor of that King of all Kings who alone bestoweth what is good."

WHY MADAME DREYFUS PUBLISHED HER HUSBAND'S LETTERS.

For many weeks a most infamous campaign was kept up in the columns of L'Echo de Paris, Le Petit Journal, Le Gaulois, and L'Intransigeant against Dreyfus. So varied in character and so ingenious in conception were these libellous tales that it became impossible for the friends of the condemned man to make any adequate defence. Dreyfus's counsel, Maitre Demange, heard the stories, and could do nothing. The verdict of the court martial closed the door to legal redress. The devoted wife of Dreyfus at first attempted to reply to them in Le Figaro. Parisians laughed at her naivete. She was not the only deceived wife in the world, they said. At length, wearied of the unequal combat—one woman against a horde of anti-Semitic vilifiers—she gave to the world a volume of letters written by her husband to herself. It was her desire simply to show him as he was, to rehabilitate the prisoner as a husband and a father in the eyes of Frenchmen. But "Les Lettres d'un Innocent" have done more than this. To the women of France, at least, they have established the innocence of the man. No one can read these letters without being struck by the absolute sincerity of the writer;

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by his love for his wife and his family and for his country; by his devotion to duty and to the traditions of the army whose head he had so remorselessly sacrificed him; by the utter hopelessness of his position. When, in the papers of January 6, 1895, the story of his dramatic degradation was published to the world, the French people pretended to see in his proud, fearless demeanor, as his uniform was stripped of insignia and his sword broken before him, a criminal stoicism that would have been impossible in an innocent man. Many English and American readers recognized simply the final desperate appeal of an entirely innocent man. The sentiment that was then aroused outside of France will be emphasized by "Les Lettres d'un Innocent." Although not destined to have the judicial and logical weight of the testimony before the Cour de Cassation they have a sympathetic and persuasive significance that is eminently human. The evidence before the court proves that Dreyfus did not write the bordereau. The letters convince one that he was incapable of treason.—Harper's Bazar.

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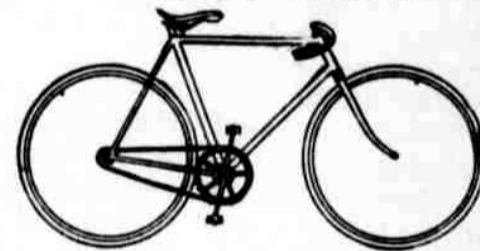
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GUILTY AS CHARGED.
Judge—You are charged with cutting Jasper Johnson with a razor after he had worsted you in a friendly sparring match.

Prisoner—Yes, sah, I slashed 'im. Dat coon 'veigled me into boxin' an' neber tole me he was lef'-han'ed.

CSAR A HUMANITARIAN.
Czar Nicholas II. is said to have an aversion to the needless slaughter of animals of any kind. He has recently forsworn the pleasure of the chase and the shooting of game, and the birds and beasts in the imperial preserves live in undisturbed quiet.