

CAPE-FEAR RECORDER.

"IN PROPORTION AS THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT GIVES FORCE TO PUBLIC OPINION, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD BE ENLIGHTENED."—WASHINGTON.

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CHINESE WOMEN.

Females in China do not hold the rank, or enjoy those privileges which in more cultivated nations are conceded to be their due. The Chinese women are generally very ignorant, their instruction being chiefly in domestic affairs. A learned lady is so uncommon that her attainments are a theme of admiration; she is immortalized in odes, and her fair resemblance magnificently illuminated on fans, &c. for the admiration of posterity. The poorer classes are engaged in various menial offices, while those of rank employ their time in music, smoking and other accomplishments. A lady of fashion, is of course, supposed guiltless of any manual labor, and consequently, the nails are permitted to acquire an enormous length particularly that of the little finger. These ladies smoke much, and their pipes, usually formed of slender bamboos, the bowl of silver or white copper, and mouth piece of amber or valuable stone, are in many instances singularly elegant. The pieces of bamboo used for the stems are valuable according to the regularity and beauty of the wood, the evenness of the joints and clearness of the bore. For those in which these various excellences are in great perfection, high prices are given.

Music is a favorite recreation, and guitars of various kinds, with other musical instruments of extraordinary shape and tone, are indispensable appurtenances to the boudoir of a Chinese belle. In such trifling employments, the life of these imprisoned beauties glides away with very little variation; while that of the lower classes is one perpetual scene of labor and exposure. They perform not only all those offices which are assigned to them in other countries, but also their children devote their task of navigating the multitude of small boats which cover the Chinese rivers. They are the moving power of these floating houses, for such in fact they are born and dying in them, never living on shore and possessing nothing but their boat and its contents. The women from continual exposure to the sun and wind, become very dark, lose all that soft, listlessness of expression, and delicacy of form, for which the highest classes are distinguished, and resemble in their exterior, another people. They acquire masculine strength and manners, and from early habit become perfectly inured to the laborious occupation of rowing or skulling the heavy boat in which they live.

Women of the poorer classes, show themselves without the least reserve in all public places, but no female whose means will permit it, ever goes abroad except in a palanquin or sedan chair, most of which are furnished with curtains, which effectually conceal the occupant. In fact, so few of the Chinese women have any pretensions to personal beauty, according to our idea of it, and those who have, are so covered with paint, that further than as objects of curiosity, they have few attractions for a foreign eye. The hair is always remarkably neat, generally very long and abundant, and dressed in a most elaborate manner ornamented with gold and silver bodkins, and flowers, such as the Indian jessamine, which are delightfully fragrant, and disposed with much taste and effect.

Those who are blessed with small feet, invariably outrank the other females of the family who are happy enough in having their extremities flourishing in a state of nature. The custom of compressing the feet, which has so long been supposed to originate in the jealousy of the Chinese husbands, is in reality, but in imitation of a certain

Queen of China, who being ordered to bind up her feet in the smallest possible compass, to please the fancy of her lord, was, of course immediately imitated by all the ladies of her court, and it thus became a standing custom.

The excess to which the compression is carried by many, is perfectly wonderful. Some of the females are so mutilated by this horrid custom, as to be unable to walk any considerable distance; and when compelled to make the effort, which is painful and difficult, they find a stick, or the shoulder of a servant maid a necessary support.

The reulsion of the blood to the feet, when the bandages which confine the limb are removed, is said to be perfectly unsupportable; and no less painful is the unnatural confinement of the growing limbs of young children, who suffer this inhuman torture for the sake of fashion. We are informed that it is necessary to watch them closely during their growth, as the pain they endure from the bandages frequently induce them, when unobserved, to tear them off, in order to obtain relief. A sister who possesses a pair of these miserable looking feet, enjoys as we have observed above, a higher rank in the family, in consideration of such insignia of fashionable pre-eminence. The effect of the process is found to be a premature appearance of age and decrepitude, which is materially aided by marriage, contracted at a very early age. Those whose feet have not been subjected to this operation are observed to fail sooner, it is true, than the females of temperate climates, but preserve their youthful appearance long after the charms of their envied companions are faded.

The size of these curious feet varies from four inches to the common size of the female foot, as in some, from carelessness, there are no impediments to their growing in length, and are only very much compressed. Those on which the bandaging has been carefully performed, are scarcely any longer than when first confined. The toes are turned under the sole, and the point of the foot is terminated by the great toe, which alone preserves a resemblance to the original form.

Numbers of poor women who have been reduced in circumstances, are hourly observed in the streets, lamed and tormented by these only remaining badges of their former rank, and many of them scarcely covered, and suffering from the accumulated misery of want and deformity.

We have heard Chinese fathers speak of this custom in terms of reprehension, but urged the prevalence of the custom, and the ridicule to which those who neglect it are exposed, as an excuse for its continuance.

*Called by the Chinese, Golden lilies.

†During the period that this vast empire was divided into many petty states, governed by kings.

‡The tales of iron shoes being employed in compressing the feet, are mere fictions. Bandages very similar to those used by surgeons, are the only means used for the purpose.

THE VILLAGE GARRISON.

An anecdote of the thirty years war. It happened in the course of the thirty years war that Gonsalvo de Cordova, who commanded the Spanish troops, then overrunning the Palatinate, found it necessary to possess himself of a little walled village, called Ogersheim, that lay in his way. On the intelligence of his approach all the inhabitants fled to Mannheim, and when Gonsalvo's length drew near, and summoned the place to surrender, there remained within the walls only a poor shepherd and his wife, the latter of whom, having that morning brought a little infant into this world of misery, was unable to leave her bed, and her husband, of course staid with her.

The anxiety and distress of the poor man may be more easily conceived than described. Fortunately, however, he possessed both courage and shrewdness; and on the spur of the moment bethought

himself of a scheme of escape, which after embracing them both, he hastened to put into execution.

The inhabitants having run off in a tremendous hurry had left almost all their property at his disposal; so he had no difficulty in finding what was requisite for his purpose, namely a complete change of dress. Having first accoutred his lower man in military guise, he tossed away his shepherd's staff, and placed with a huge basket, containing three good broadswords on his belt, and putting on his boots so thickly the soles and high in the heels, he lifted him about a half a league from ground he fastened to them a prodigious pair of jingling spurs, which were the fashion of the time. Thus accoutred, he forthwith betook himself to the walls, and leaning with a pompous air on his sword, he listened coolly to the herald who advanced to summon the village to surrender.

'Friend,' said our hero, as soon as the herald had concluded his speech, 'tell your commander that though I have not yet made up my mind to surrender at all, I may possibly be induced to do so provided he agrees to three following conditions, in which I shall make no abatement whatever: 1st. The garrison must be allowed to march out with military honors; 2d. The lives and property of the inhabitants must be protected; 3d. The garrison shall be allowed the free exercise of the Protestant religion.'

The herald replied that such proposals could not for a moment be considered, and added that the garrison were very weak, and concluded by saying that the instant surrender was required.

'My wife,' said the shepherd, 'do not advise you to inform your commander of me, that nothing may be said of my blood-shed coming to the aid of a surrendering garrison, and please to add, that I do not propose to agree to the conditions he states, he will gain nothing by it, I swear to you by the honor of a gentleman, the garrison has lately received a reinforcement of the little dreams of.'

So saying, the shepherd lighted his pipe and puffing with an air of the most consummate assurance, Counted by his appearance of boldness and security, the herald thought it prudent to return, and state to Gonsalvo the demands which had been made. The Spanish general deceived by this show of resistance, and being unwilling to waste either men or time in reducing this paltry town, resolved to agree to the conditions offered, and followed by his troops, approached the gates. This lenient determination was announced by the herald to the shepherd, who only vouchsafed to say in reply: I find your commander is a man of some sense. He then left the walls, let down the drawbridge, deliberately opened the gates, & allowed the Spanish troops to pour into the town. Surprised at seeing no one in the streets, but a strange looking fellow, whose caricature of a military costume hung upon him like patch work, Gonsalvo began to suspect treachery; and seizing the shepherd, demanded to know where the garrison were.

'Gonsalvo! Gonsalvo! follow me I shall show you the garrison.'

'Follow me, then,' then exclaimed the shepherd, 'the least symptom of treachery on my part, I shall send a bullet through your heart.'

'Agreed,' said our friend. 'Follow me, Spaniards! for I swear by the word of an honest man and christian, as well as by the honor of a gentleman, that the garrison will offer you no injury.'

small room, where lay his wife, and her little boy beside her.

Noble General, he said, pointing to the former, 'this is our garrison; and this,' he added taking his son in his arms, 'is the reinforcement of which I told you.'

Aware now of the real state of matters, the absurdity and cleverness of the trick, moved even Spanish gravity, and Gonsalvo gave free course to his mirth. When taking off a rich gold chain which adorned his own person he passed it round the neck of the infant.

'Come to offer this mark of my gratitude,' he said good naturedly, 'for the garrison of Ogersheim. By the hand of a soldier, I envy you the possession of such a reinforcement; and you must let me present you with a purse of gold, for the use of the young recruit.'

He then stooped down and kissed the delighted mother and her boy, and quitted the house leaving the shepherd to boast, for many a summer day and winter night, of the success of stratagem.

Lord Barrymore.—This noted spendthrift had commenced his career so early, and squandered so profusely, that he found himself nearly ruined on coming of age. Of all the Prince of Wales' dissolute companions, he seems to have been the most abandoned. On attaining his majority, he entertained the prince at the cost of 10,000*l.* and was obliged to sell his horses and carriages soon after he had thus signalized his attainment of the age of discretion. He had an extraordinary fund of animal spirits, with some eccentricity. The prince one night, at his instigation, rushed out with a party from the orgies of the pavilion, fantastically dressed in table cloths, with napkins round their heads, and making noises, to fright the old women out of their sleep. He played harlequin in a pantomime at the Brighton Theatre, jumping with grotesque activity, through a blazing hoop, and "setting the audience in a roar" by a ridiculous disruption of his motley dress. He exhibited himself, if possible, still more incongruously to the fashionable world of London, dancing a mock minuet at the great room in Saville row with the clown, Delphin. But Lord Barrymore's animal spirits were no longer enlivening his eccentricities no longer whimsical—when his ruin became apparent. His reception at Carlton House, from being reserved and infrequent ceased altogether.

It was very common to shift the blame of the Prince of Wales' irregularities from himself to his associates. The ruin of those among them who had fortunes to lose, might, with more propriety, be charged to their foolish ambition in associating with him. The facility with which he both encouraged and discarded them was a natural consequence, a just punishment, and useful example. Lord Barrymore's career was soon and fatally terminated. His private theatricals at Wargrave were closed as it was expressed at Carlton House, "with a finale sung by John Doe and Richard Roe," his assaults and batteries which he committed indiscriminately on Sir Jno. Lade, Mr. T. C., and his other competitors of the Jockey Club at New-market, and on those whom he met in street brawls and low haunts of profligacy, made him avoided by persons of his own condition and brought him to the Court of King's Bench. He appeared twice before Kenyon, the chief justice, as a party prosecuted for an assault, and as defendant in action for debt. The action was brought by the architect who had built his private theatre at Wargrave: he pleaded his minority; he was answered by proof of a promise to pay after he became of age and lost both his honour and his cause. Lord Barrymore was an officer in the Berkshire militia. Whilst escorting a party of French prisoners from Rye to Dover, in 1793, he was shot in the head by the accidental discharge of a carbine which he had with him in his carriage, died in a few minutes, and thus finished, at the early age of 23, his short, dissolute, and foolish life.—*Life and Reign of George IV.*

MISSOURI INDIANS.

We lately published the announcement of the return of General Gaines and Atkinson with the troops from Rock Island. The following are said to be the outlines of the treaty concluded by them with the Indians.—

1. Hitherto this band has in a great degree been isolated from the other tribes of the Sac nation friendly to the United States, and have annually visited the British posts and traders in Canada, where no doubt that rancorous hostility, which they have evinced towards the United States since the conclusion of the late war, has been kept alive and cherished. By the conditions of the treaty recently concluded, they are required to submit peaceably to the authority of the friendly chiefs and braves of the Sac nation and to reside and hunt with them hereafter upon their own lands west of the Mississippi. Being thus incorporated with the other tribes, the whole nation will become responsible for the acts of a particular tribe, and thus a permanent peace will be secured.

2. They are required to abandon all communications, and to cease to hold any intercourse, in future, with the British posts and towns. A compliance with this provision of the treaty alone will have a tendency, in a short time, to disarm them of any hostility towards the United States, and to substitute for it that friendly feeling so desirable in a powerful tribe of Indians, hanging upon the extensive and open frontier of two States.

3. They are required by the treaty to confine themselves to the west bank of the Mississippi river, and not to recross to their former hunting grounds, except by the express permission of the President of the United States or the Governor of the State of Illinois; by which condition all future disturbance between this band and the citizens of Illinois will be effectually prevented.

The St. Louis Times of the 6th inst. says:—

The United States troops returned from Rock Island on the 6th inst. It appears that what is called the British Band of Sac and Fox tribes, who have obstinately refused to quit the lands on which they have long resided, whatever the consequences may be, have determined to fight. They were in numbers equal to the regular troops.—We understand that the commanding officer, Gen. Gaines, acted under these circumstances with the magnanimity becoming the agent of a powerful nation, and with the forbearance and moderation of a brave man. Without putting any thing to hazard, he waited until he had assembled so large a force, that the very appearance of it overwhelmed all opposition, induced the Indians to abandon the ground they occupied and sue for peace, which was granted to them. If any blood had been shed, great distress would have been experienced among the frontier inhabitants, and a very difficult and expensive war would have been the result. The exhibition of so large a force will have great effect upon the future conduct of the Indians. Credit is due to the prompt and energetic movement of the troops; and the military advantages of a location of troops at Jefferson Barracks, and an Arsenal near this place have both been illustrated. The Illinois militia, it is said, acted very well.

Lord Byron's House at Mesolonghi.—When I last visited Mesolonghi, in 1827, this devoted city had been destroyed. Groups of Albanians and Arnouts, sat smoking their pipes on its ruins; and the Bulgarians had staled their horses, in the halls of its primate palaces. Lord Byron's house, in which he had lived and died, stood erect and unscathed. The Turkish guard at its portal, marked it as the abode of the Pacha. By some strange chance, it had escaped the general ruin, and looked like a lonely column in the midst of a desert.—Dr. J.