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From the New York Mirror. EXTRACTS FROM A MANUSCRIPT JOURNAL OF A TRIP TO PARIS, IN 1831.

A French dinner-party differs from an American one as essentially in forms, as in dishes; and both are vastly superior to ours.

A gentleman always enters the drawing-room with his hat in his hand, though this is not peculiar to dinner-parties; it is the custom in all cases whatsoever; one would no more leave his hat, than his coat, in the ante-chamber; and, since the thing meets some reproach in New-York, I will digress a little to defend it. It will not be denied that the most finished gentleman will occasionally, in the vicissitudes of a party, find a want of occupation for his hands.

In France, guests are never introduced to each other. If there be in the world one practice more useless and more excruciating than another, it is that of introducing all round every mortal that enters a room. It is useless, because, in reference to its avowed object, it amounts to nothing; no one can remember the various names; and, after having made the circuit, is as little acquainted with any one as if he had not been presented.

Look for a moment at its operation. A servant announces a gentleman's name; he enters, seeks the hostess, and makes his devoirs. A dozen words are exchanged; he turns on his heel; and where is he, if he depends on an introduction (for I am supposing him among entire strangers)? But, agreeably to the custom I am advocating, he asks the first person he meets, "did you see what a figure the Duc de Angiers cut in Tuileries this morning?" or any familiar, common-place question; and whether he addresses himself to a lady or a gentleman, the reply, and all subsequent conversation, is perfectly informal, as much so as it could be between old friends.

home." Whether I have made out my case, I know not; but I have made up my mind that introductions are a great bore, and therefore I resume my subject.

I have already referred to the uniform excellence of French dishes, and after that the details of a dinner-table must be essentially the same in all civilized countries; some minor peculiarities there are, however. The carving is done by the servants, and plates filled with the different parts of poultry, or viands, are handed successively to each guest, who can thus make his own election of quantity and quality. The number of courses is ad infinitum; and, commencing with soup, the plates are changed, no one can tell how many times. Strange to say, however, the knife and fork are never changed with them; fish and flesh must be managed with the same silver and steel, without their touching a napkin in the intervals. The good people have an idea that salad is spoiled by being cut, and therefore the aid of fork and fingers convey each ample leaf ("mercy knows how") into their mouths; this I could not "follow," and to the horri-fication of my companions, always subdivided nine into practicable portions.

I left America with the impression that the French Ladies were remarkable for personal beauty; and I was very much surprised (I will not say disappointed) to find the reverse is the fact. Their figures, naturally or artificially, are very fine; and they walk with a grace probably unrivalled; but beauty of face cannot be found here. They dress with great taste, and display a good sense in its adaptation, which I was unaccustomed to see. Every thing elegant and costly is reserved for the drawing-room, where it is exposed to no injury, and where, only, a lady should look for that sort of conspicuous; while such as are neat in appearance and common in texture, are worn in the street. Their bonnets, also, are just what bonnets should be; and bear the same relation to those worn in America, that a linnet does to an owl. Thus far, therefore, it may be said, in natural qualities, over which they have no control, the American ladies exceed the French; in artificial ones, which may be controlled, they are exceeded by them.

From his waist hung a broad leathern strap, and his girdle was garnished with several razors of very peculiar construction, very narrow in the blade, and firmly fixed in straight wooden handles. He addressed me with an "Oreste, Effendi, 'Ti theles?" (command me, sir! what is your wish?) I signified my intentions. "Eftthese," said he, (speedily,) and, with his left hand, stretching the strap, that hung from his middle, he smoothed it down with his right, and ended by giving it two or three smart slaps, that sounded like the smart crack of a rifle.

and sorrow. Domestic joys, and all the thousand endearments of reciprocated affection, are almost unknown in France; would they were more generally known than they are in my own highly favored land? One thing may be said of the French however; they are not taught to regard matrimony as especially connected with felicity, and therefore, though they seldom find it, they are, at the same time seldom disappointed.

It is a thing understood, that French Ladies use a freedom of language, in ordinary conversation, quite incompatible with our notions of propriety. There is no question about the fact, but there may be about the correctness of our decision upon it. It is true, the custom of the two countries, in this particular, diametrically differs; yet, for all that, one may be as blameless as the other—"Honi soit qui mal y pense." What they have always regarded as propriety, so long as it is not morally wrong, is propriety with them; and it is not morally wrong, unless it involves the consequences which are the sole grounds of our objection. Scott has well remarked that nothing is more unphilosophical than to ridicule or censure the customs of a nation merely because they differ from our own. I am satisfied there is no better cause of complaint in the present instance; and since the evil to which we except exists not in the habit, but in our construction of its tendency, it will be very well to have done with a crusade against opinions which are entitled to the respect of third persons, as much as ours are. In fact, there is more reason in condemning our fastidiousness than their franchise. The refinement of discarding a word in common use, on the ground of newly-discovered delicacy, is mere affectation; and it is perfectly inconsistent, too, because the expunged word is made conspicuous by the very fact of its omission: this is another branch of the same subject, and deserves a passing notice. The implication of harm where formerly nobody ever thought of finding it, and where in truth it does not exist, is a childish innovation upon common sense. The French say of us, with just derision, "American ladies have nothing but hands and feet;" they might now add that gentlemen are equally unfortunate; for, in the present age of prudery, if a man is thrown from a gig, or falls out of a window, he breaks—what his leg? Oh, no! that's an improper word! It's quite shocking! No lady must say "leg"—though I think it would puzzle any lady to say why—the gentleman broke his limb!!! Now this is utterly ridiculous. There is no more harm in saying leg, than there is in having one; but this excessive refinement of omitting to say it, while it evinces a discreditable weakness on the part of the speaker, conveys all of evil that can exist in the matter. It creates the very thing which, in its folly, it takes such pains to avoid. It sees danger where there is none. It flees when no man pursueth." It shrinks from the plain path of propriety, and deservedly falls into the mire.

THE GREEK BARBER.

I crossed the ferry to Poros. Now the conveniences for the indulgence of the toilet, situated as I then was, were exceedingly limited; and seeing the depot of an artist, vulgarly recognized as a barber, abundantly stocked with clean towels and keen-looking razors, I entered, and intimated my wish to have my hair cut, and the performance of other little operations in his line, to the effect that I might be made comfortable. I seated myself complacently upon the bench which was extended round the room, and folded my legs under me with as much grace as the little practice I had had in that position enabled me. Seeing that I was a Frank (Franks generally pay better than natives) the master of the shop approached me with an air of considerable deference. He was a good-natured looking Greek, particularly neat and trim in his attire. He wore his crimson Phesi jauntily on one side, discovering a great portion of his very clean shorn temple. His eye-brows were reduced to a beautifully fine curved line, his moustaches, though very large and thick, were balanced to a hair,—in fact, it might be said of him, that he carried the best recommendation to his customer in his face.

From the waist hung a broad leathern strap, and his girdle was garnished with several razors of very peculiar construction, very narrow in the blade, and firmly fixed in straight wooden handles. He addressed me with an "Oreste, Effendi, 'Ti theles?" (command me, sir! what is your wish?) I signified my intentions. "Eftthese," said he, (speedily,) and, with his left hand, stretching the strap, that hung from his middle, he smoothed it down with his right, and ended by giving it two or three smart slaps, that sounded like the smart crack of a rifle. The art of making the noise is as peculiar to the barbers of the east as cracking a whip is to the French postillion. Having strapped a razor he removed my cap, and I then thought it high time to enter a remonstrance, saying, that I did not wish to have my head shaved, but simply my hair cut.

"I understand you so," said he, "and am going to do it." "But," interrupted I, "surely not with a razor; have you not got a—" "initiating the action of a pair of scissors with my fingers." "Do not be afraid," said he; and a smile of contempt passed over his features as he, without further parley, applied his razor to my devoted head, and scraped therefrom a quantity of hair. "There," said he, "if you are not content, I will send to my uncle Theodoros, the tailor, for his shears." I was compelled to submit, though in the full expectation of being scalped at every stroke of his accursed tool. When he pronounced the operation ended, I was not a little surprised to find my hair very decently cut, and myself unhurt. He then proceeded to place under my chin a pewter basin, with a large rim cut out to fit the neck; and, having washed my chin and

cheek with his fingers, and rubbed them with a piece of hard soap, he removed the basin, and, putting his foot on the bench on which I sat, he laid my head gently upon his knee. He went on to shave me, not as our barbers do, by drawing the razor towards himself, but by pushing it from him outwards, pinching the chin up into ridges, and taking only at a stroke just the crown of each ridge, making it not only a tedious, but to me an excruciating operation, although, on the other hand, a very perfect one; for the face will remain smooth and beardless for a day or two. They seem to cut about eight-and-forty hours' growth beneath the skin. This ended, he put some question to me; to which I having no idea of the consequences, but supposing some matter of course, nodded an assent. He then tucked several towels down my neck and back, and gave me another pewter basin, of the same construction as the first, but much larger. I had before observed a wooden bracket, like an old fashioned gallow, projecting from the wall, over my head, though without suspecting its use. Upon this he suspended a pewter pail, having a stop cock in the bottom. He then produced a large wooden bowl, containing a quantity of soap, and, with a raw silk, made a wash sufficient to wash the whole population of the island. I saw him deposit this on the bench by his side, and bare his arms to the elbow. I saw all this preparation with some little anxiety, and even apprehension; but, encouraged as I was by my position and his infernal paraphernalia, he had me completely in his power; and, as to remonstrance, he took an effectual method of cutting short any soliloquy I might have committed against the dignity of Greek, by turning the top cock of the bucket above me, and, with the speed of thought, down came a bucket of scalding water! I tried to scream; the power of utterance was gone. I would have thrown the basin at him, but then my whole body must have been parboiled; I had nothing left but to endure. At last, the deluge ceased. Now, thought I,—now, thou perfidious barber,—though thou wert even the progenitor of Sir Edward himself,—now will I be revenged of thee. I will dip thee in thy own copper, and hang thee up to dry like a lathered napkin, as a warning to all thy detestable craft how they exercise their atrocities upon confiding Franks. But, alas! I opened my eyes, glistening with the fire of fury, but to be quenched with the tears of torture. Oh, the lather! the lather! In an instant I was smothered—eyes, nose, ears, and mouth—with the very sublimated essence of soap suds! The souls of the great-grandfathers of all barbers, throughout all generations, must have concentrated their wickedness in this individual. He insinuated the compound into my eyes, he blew it up my nostrils, he crammed it into my mouth, and thrust into my ears. Soap-suds and hot water! soap-suds and hot water!! soap-suds and hot water!!! three times over. I can no more; 'tis like Alonso's dagger—

"It rouses horrid images—away with it!" At last, he took from a dome-topped towelhorse, that stood in the centre of the room, over a basin of burning charcoal, a hot napkin, which he folded, turban-like, upon my head, while, with another, he dried my sodden countenance as well as he could. I was completely subdued—my spirits was broken—he might have tweaked me by the nose, and I should scarce have known it; but yet, I wondered how these latter kindnesses were vouchsafed me. Alas! it was only to prolong my existence till I had endured, to their full extent, the enormities the monster yet meditated against me. He took my hand in one of his; and, placing the other upon my shoulder, suddenly extended my arm, making every joint crack. The other arm— But I hasten over this part of my narrative; the remembrance is too painful to dwell upon. He took possession of my head, and, causing it to perform a roudede, after the fashion of our harlequin, he gave it such a dexterous twist on one side, producing a report that sounded, to my hearing, (almost the only faculty I had left,) like the crack of doom! I thought the whole vertebral column was dislocated. He then placed me upright, my back against the wall, retreated some three or four paces, and, raising his hands, pushed with outspread palms against my chest, with such force as to cause the involuntary ejaculation of ha! as loud as an Irish pavior. The measure of his iniquity now being full, he called for a tchibouque and a cup of coffee, and, presenting them to me in the most obsequious manner, this most obsequious perpetrator of all these atrocities had the impudence to wish me a good health and many ages.

American Courts of Justice.—I never went into a court house in the west in summer, without observing that the judges and lawyers had their feet invariably placed upon the desks before them, and raised much higher than their heads. This, however, is only in the western country; for in the courts at Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia, the greatest order and regularity is observed. I had been told that the judges often slept upon the bench; but I confess that although I have entered court-houses at all seasons, during the space of fifteen months, I never saw an instance of it. I have frequently remonstrated with the Americans on the total absence of forms and ceremonies in their courts of justice, and was commonly answered, "Yes, that may be quite necessary in England, in order to overawe a parcel of ignorant creatures, who have no share in making these laws; but, with us, a man's man, whether he have a silk gown on or not; and I guess he can decide quite as well without a big wig as with one. You see we have done with wig-gery of all kinds, and if one of our judges was to wear such an appendage, he'd be taken for a merry-andrew, and the court would become a kind of show box; instead of such arrangements producing with us solemnity, they would produce nothing but laughter and the greatest possible irregularity."—Farral's Rambles in America.

From the London Times. The Louisiana Loan.—A new loan for the State of Louisiana, one of the United States of America, has been contracted for by the house of Baring and Co. The following account of the transaction is from authority that may be relied on. The amount of the loan is for seven millions of dollars. The contract was taken in New Orleans, at 106 per cent. for a 5 per cent stock, with a fixed period of redemption. The American exchange on England being about 9 per cent discount, this would be equal to a price of 97 in the London market. The stock being issued here at 104 with the addition of the exchange, is equivalent to 113 in New Orleans, and consequently the English subscribers have an advance of 7 per cent on the contract price. Now there are several circumstances connected with this transaction which deserve serious remarks, as connected with the character of British capitalists and the security of British property. In the first place, as relates to the former, we do not see what right the contractors have, consistent with usual practice, to engage for the loan at one price and sell it another, or in other words, to charge their friends 7 per cent for being put upon their list as sharers in the contract. In the second place it must be evident that the reputation of the house in question, and its known connection with America, must have been the sole guarantee to the public for the ultimate security of a very unpromising bargain. If we are rightly informed, the previous debt of Louisiana amounted to about 7,000,000 dollars; and the 7,000,000 created by this contract, and the whole will amount to 14,000,000, or about 2,800,000. Why, NAPOLEON, according to the best of our recollection, sold the whole territory of the United States for the half of the money. By coming under such onerous obligations, the state of Louisiana will be more heavily taxed than any member of the American Union for the mere payment of dividends, without raising one cent for the expenses of internal government. The whole population of the state does not exceed 215,000 persons, of whom 109,000 are blacks. Omitting the latter from the account, the debt of Louisiana will amount to 26l. a-head on every man, woman, and child, in the republic. This is an amount of mortgage on the industry of the Louisiana people only exceeded in proportion by the debt of Great Britain itself, and not equalled by that of any other nation with which we are acquainted. In the third place, though it would not matter much to a private debtor who has to pay interest for a loan to what party he paid it, whether foreign or domestic, as the necessity of resorting to a foreign loan-market, and paying interest, to foreigners, shows the absolute impossibility of raising money at home, and therefore the difficulty with which remittances must be procured to fulfil engagements in London, where the shares are all issued, and where only provision is to be made for the ultimate liquidation. It is not for us to step in between people and their own impudence; but we express our surprise and regret that we should be obliged again to advert any farther to the waste or the risk of British capital invested in trans-Atlantic loans, where there is not even an independent Government to offer its security.

Taunton.—Our population is about 6,000. In 1652, the first extensive iron works in North America were erected in this town. The nail factories, when in full operation, can now turn out from eight to ten tons of cut nails per day. The first shovels that were made in this country were made here. Most of the bricks for this section of the country, have long been manufactured in this town—between eight and nine millions are now made annually. There are in the place seven cotton factories—two breweries—two printing offices, from which are issued two weekly newspapers and two juvenile papers—one rolling and slitting mill—one forge—one shovel manufactory—one copper and lead rolling mill—one paper mill—one carding and fulling mill. The calico establishment furnishes from 4 to 5000 pieces per week, in a style equal to any manufactured in the country.—There is also a manufactory of Britannia ware. We believe it is the only establishment of the kind in the country; and as such deserving of a more particular notice. It is about three years since it was commenced on a small scale. It has now grown into an extensive business. The ingenious and enterprising mechanic, who began it, are deserving of great praise. By their native ingenuity and skill, unassisted and their ware is now pronounced, by competent judges, to be far superior to the imported article. It has already made its way into public favour; and the "Taunton Silver" is now to be seen in most of our large cities, rivaling in beauty and brightness the standard metal. We ought not to close this article, without mentioning the Court house, the stone Church and the Episcopal Church, as being ornaments to the village—the last, we believe, to be unrivalled in this country for neatness and picturesque beauty.—Taunton (Mass.) Reporter.

A FACT.—Glorious uncertainty of the law!—A person who lived in the house of a landlord in this city fell in arrears for rent, upwards of twenty dollars, and so continued for months.—Last September, the tenant commenced an action before Mr. Halliday, against his landlord, for repairs done upon the house without his knowledge, approbation, or consent. The landlord defended the suit and gave notice of set-off for rent due. The trial was adjourned to a certain day by a written stipulation. A dispute subsequently arose as to what day the adjournment was for, the stipulation is appealed to and cannot be found. In the meantime the plaintiff goes before the Justice and obtains an exparte hearing and judgment. The judgment is for \$316; and the costs amount to 100 per cent advance) 364. Total \$680.

There being no way of ascertaining the day to which the adjournment was made, the judgment was entered up, and afterwards paid by the defendant to the plaintiff, who is good for nothing, and while in fact the plaintiff is indebted five times the amount to the defendant. This is one of the blessings of a Bethlehem Court.—Albany Daily Advertiser.

The Minutes of the several Annual Conferences for 1832 present a statistical view of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. The whole number of Methodists is 584,593—being an increase of 35,479 since the last year. Virginia contains 40,746—Philadelphia, the largest number, viz: 48,045—New York, 47,985—Baltimore, 43,990—Ohio, 44,879—Missouri, the smallest number, viz: 5,205.

A Yankee Notion.—The Yankees have sent to this market samples of shoes made of Indian rubber cloth, called tyman cloth. The cloth is saturated and painted with the gum, and polished so as to present a beautiful surface resembling kid. These shoes being impervious to the wet, are intended to supersede the rubber shoes—the most uncouth things that ever deformed pretty feet.—N. Y. Jour. of Com.