

TRAVELING BY CARAVANS

THE PRINCIPAL MODE OF TRANSPORTATION IN PERSIA.

Camels, Mules and Donkeys Used in Pilgrimages and Trade—How Persians Ride—The "Tshappar."

For Americans, the most progressive nation, it must be hard to conceive a country absolutely without progress, a country where the ways of 4,000 years ago are the ways of to-day. "Such a country is Persia," says W. Von Schier-Brand in the New York Commercial Advertiser. The muscles of the quadruped and the muscles of the biped are the only engines of locomotion known there. The caravan, such as described in the tales of the one-eyed calendar, is still the all-important means of communication, the caravan with its chief guide, its camel, mule and donkey drivers, its manifold dangers, its slowness and patriarchal habits.

Caravans in Persia are of all sizes and kinds, depending very much on the route to be traveled over, and on the season. The largest caravans are those made up of pilgrims to Mecca and to Meshed. The trip to Mohammed's tomb and back is calculated to consume six months, and one caravan starts each year to Persia, varying in size from 10,000 to 70,000. It is a dangerous journey at the best, and there is good and substantial reason, besides religious enthusiasm, to accord special honors and the honorary cognomen "hadjee" to every one who has braved its perils. Out of every five pilgrims who start out for Mecca not more than two return. The others have died by the roadside from heat, disease or under the daggers of robbers. The pilgrims to Meshed are, however, much more numerous than those who try to win foreigners of their sins by a visit to the prophet's grave. At Meshed, a large town in the northwestern extremity of Persia, is the gorgeous silver shrine of Imam Reza, a saint ranking next to the prophet himself in Persian estimation. During good years the concourse of pious strangers in Meshed mounts up to a quarter of a million in numbers. The caravans who go there are generally well guarded by an escort of troops and a couple of mounted guns, a needless precaution, as these thousands of pilgrims carry a good deal of valuable property and money with them, and used to be the prey of roving bands of Turcomans from the deserts adjoining Khorassan, that being the province in which Meshed is located.

Of course, these caravans are exceptions. For the common purpose of everyday life, such as trade especially, caravans of all sizes are constantly on their way between all the principal towns of the vast monarchy. Of necessity, these also travel slowly.

While the camel is used exclusively as a beast of burden, the mule and donkey are made to serve for riding purposes as well, though only for the aged, the women and the priests. The horse now, as in the time of Xerxes, is the inseparable companion of the well-born Persian. When a man is very old and feeble he has a servant trudging beside his steed, leading him by the reins safely over all unevenness in the path. Even small boys of six ride on horseback when they are away from home. The women ride, as said before, on donkeys, or else either by "Kedshaweh" or by "takhteravan," the latter is a species of sedan chair, carried by two mules, one in front and one in the rear. It is not the most pleasant sort of locomotion, and to those unaccustomed to it the continued shaking produced by the uneven tread of the two animals has a similar effect to sea sickness. Still, habit is everything, and the wives of well-to-do Persians almost invariably choose this method of transport rather than any other. The "Kedshaweh" is an institution affected only by the wives and daughters of the poor. It consists of a brace of baskets, one hanging down from each side of an ass or mule, large enough for a woman to sit in a crouching position, with her knees drawn almost under her chin. The two baskets are thus evenly balanced, and the empty one usually serves to hold the baggage of the female traveler cooped up in the other.

Besides by caravan there is another method of traveling in Persia. That is by "tshappar" or post. The great Ameer Nizam, the ablest statesman Persia has produced during the last century, was the originator of tshappar. He caused a network of postal stations, called "tshappar khanehs," to be erected along the principal roads leading to the capital. These stations are situated at convenient distances, say an average of twenty miles from each other, and each is presided over by an officer, who has charge of the dozen or so of tough nags furnished by the government, and which can be hired by travelers at so much per mile. These postal stations are always small and unpretentious buildings, devoid of every comfort, and vouchsafing absolutely nothing but inadequate shelter to the tired traveler. The horses, too, are brutes of low degree and devoid of pedigree, such mongrels, in fact, as are known in the country as "yaboo" (hack). The discomforts to be encountered while traversing the country by tshappar are many and serious, and none but an iron constitution will bear them without danger to life and limb. But for all that, Europeans always prefer to go by tshappar in Persia, as being less objectionable and certainly much more expeditious than caravan travel.

As to the caravanseries, those primitive hostleries erected for the accommodation of persons traveling by caravan, they are all more or less in ruins and decay. The present Shah has not caused to be built nor replaced a single one of these structures, scattered liberally over the vast surface of the country. The best ones extant, even to-day, are those which Abbas the Great erected 300 years ago. While some of the latter are architect-

urally very fine, resembling palaces from a distance, they have long ago been despoiled of every object tending to afford some comfort to the many travelers, and are bare of everything like furniture. The wells near a great many of them having dried up in the course of centuries, some of the most gorgeous of these caravanseries are now practically useless.

NEWS NOTES FOR WOMEN.

There are said to be 97,158 widows in Massachusetts.

It takes \$28,000,000 to keep our ladies in silks every year.

Pink and golden brown, black and yellow are fashionable combinations.

Queen Victoria is writing another book, but what about nobody knows.

Black grenadine, bunting and etamine are worn in black or after crape is laid aside.

Beaded lace and silk cord gimp are used in the same profusion as passementerie is.

Lavender and pearl undressed kid gloves are vying with the tan shade in popularity.

A line of pique ribbon is still the stylish finish for a dressy gown in both neck and sleeves.

Gold or steel beaded panels, vests, cuffs and collars are worn on plush, velvet or silk costumes.

Tea cloths have a handsome edge of wide marquis, as also have bed spreads and pillow shams.

The rage for bouffant skirts is in no way lessened, and the skirts are more numerous than ever.

Gray gingham is trimmed with white embroidery and worn in the house for second mourning.

Sleeves that are puffed at the top and fit closely to the lower part of the arm have caught the fancy of most ladies.

Miss Olivia Cobb, who is just out of her teens, is the belle of Athens, Ga., and has already refused thirty offers of marriage.

Mahogany and the various Florentine reds will be the favorite shades for street wear in the winter. They are certainly warm looking.

Mme. Emile Flygare-Cartin, the Swedish novelist, is more than eighty years old, and is about to publish an extensive autobiography.

Full vests are worn with revers, collars and cuffs of border goods, embroidery or the portions that come for this purpose with robe dresses.

Draped and folded vests remain a feature in most fall and winter gowns. Repped silk, Bengaline, and velvet will be used for them.

Dressmakers who pleat and gather a quantity of stuff about the dress wearer's figure are not following the best models. Simplicity will rule.

Mrs. Edith Kingdon Gould cut up a \$10,000 point d'Alecon flounce, that once belonged to the Empress Eugenie, to trim her baby's clothes.

Beadings should be of the same tone as the foundation, and the beads must be so liberally used that but very little of the foundation can be seen.

Plush and tinsel stripes are on gauze ribbons, moire hasa satin back and picot edged velvet ribbons are in all of the new evening shades for party toilets.

Annie Mercer, of Missaukee County, Mich., promises to become a giantess. She is only in her twelfth year, and yet she is a trifle over six feet in stature.

Miss Belle Gentle astonished the volunteers at Kincaid, Fifeshire, Scotland, by her wonderful skill with the rifle. She shot in ten contests and won eight first prizes.

Narrow bands of black velvet are seen on the sleeves of white and cream colored dresses. They are placed a little below the puffings, and add much to the appearance of the garments.

There is a mistaken notion that ladies in mourning must use a white handkerchief with a black border. A white cambric one is quite as appropriate and in accordance with the demands which fashion makes.

The long straight polonaises, which will be made of heavy materials for winter wear, should not be caught up in the hips, but be cut in flat pleats behind, sloping away at the sides to disclose the skirt beneath, which will be entirely concealed elsewhere.

There are more simple models for evening costumes than ever. The picturesque is more sought than last season, and the models this season embody designs taken from Louis IV.'s reign. The colors also in evening fabrics are reproductions of the same epoch.

"Pinking" will come in again with a grand rush. It will be applied to a variety of materials and all sorts of garments. Silk and woolen gowns, underskirts, morning dresses, breakfast jackets, will be decorated with flounces, frills, and ruchings of the material, pinked out, sometimes pleated, but more often very lightly gathered.

In tailor-made gowns smooth surfaced cloths will still be used for dressy suits, two markedly contrasting colors in one costume, the lighter color for lower skirt and vest, the darker for the basque and drapery. Thus serpent green over gray, and dark blue over tobacco brown. Jacket in the darker color. Small mantles and shoulder capes of the two colors in combination.

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Merrill, of Oakland, Ill., celebrated their diamond wedding recently. He is ninety-seven years old and his wife eighty-nine, having been only fourteen years old when she was married seventy-five years ago. They have fifteen children living, ninety-four grand-children and thirty-five great grand-children. All were present at the diamond wedding feast.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

Care of Kerosene Lamps.

A thorough study of the subject of petroleum lamps has been lately made by Sir Frederick Abel. He suggests that the reservoir of a kerosene lamp should always be of metal, the more strongly to resist any explosive tendency of the oil or vapor within, and that there should be no other opening than that for the wick, unless so small a one that flame could hardly enter it. He further says the wick should be soft and dry when put in, and should completely fill its space, but without forcing; that it should be scarcely longer than to touch the bottom of the reservoir, and there the oil should never be suffered to be less than two-thirds of the depth, while the lamp should always be filled partly before lighting. The wick should never be turned down suddenly, and the lamp should not be suddenly cooled or allowed to meet a draught; and when the flame is extinguished it should first be lowered as far as possible and then a sharp strong puff should be blown across, but not down the chimney.—Harper's Bazar.

Recipes.

TRIPE.—A correspondent of Good Cheer, who has heard that tripe is good food for persons of delicate digestion, asks how it should be cooked. A good way is to first cut it into pieces not more than an inch square, fry them in butter, and with onion sliced very thin, and with pepper and salt.

TEA RUSKS.—One quart of milk-warmed, half cup soft yeast, and flour to make a thick batter. Mix at night, and in the morning add one cup each of butter and sugar rubbed together, and two eggs well beaten and mix into a soft dough. Let it rise again, mold into biscuit form, put them in a tin, and, when light, bake. As you take them from the oven when done wet the top with sweet milk, in which a spoonful of sugar has been dissolved. It makes the crust tender and hard.

QUINCE MARMALADE.—Pare and core the fruit and cut it up rather fine. Cover with water and cook until tender. Meanwhile, in another kettle simmer the cores and skins in sufficient water to keep them from burning. Strain off the gelatinous liquid which will have formed, and add it to the quince pulp, with three-quarters of a pound of sugar to a pound of the fruit. Boil the whole, stirring constantly until it is a smooth mass. Try it as in making jelly, and when it assumes a firm consistency make it up in jars or bowls as convenient. Cover tightly and keep in a dry place. It will keep perfectly the year round.

WAFFLES.—Pass one pint of warm, soft-boiled rice through a sieve, and add to it a small teaspoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of flour sifted with two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Beat the whites of three eggs to a stiff froth. Beat the yolks of the three eggs as light as possible and mix with three gills of milk; stir the mixture into the rice and flour and add an ounce of melted butter; add the frothed whites; mix all thoroughly together and pour into the waffle iron, baking a delicate brown. The waffle-iron should be heated, well greased and filled two-thirds full with the mixture.

Useful Hints.

Use a heated knife to cut hot bread and the latter will not be soggy.

For raspberry stains a mixture of weak ammonia and water is the best.

When the burners of kerosene lamps become clogged, put them in a basin of hot water containing washing soda, and let them boil for a few minutes. This will make them perfectly clean and almost as bright as new.

Never use a brush on silk; it injures the goods. Instead wipe carefully with the face of a soft piece of velvet. Shake the velvet occasionally and wipe between every plait if you would preserve your garment and have it retain its new look.

Whee grease, and all other grease, on cotton goods may be taken out with cold, soft water and any good soap; soft soap is the best. In cases of long standing wet the spot with kerosene oil and let it soak for some hours, then wash as before directed.

An old New England housekeeper says: To keep moths out of closets, clothes and carpets, take green tansy. It is better before it goes to seed. Put it around the edges of carpets, and hang it up in closets where woolen cloths are hung, and no moth will ever come where it is.

Effect of a Solar Eclipse Upon Animals.

"Although the scientific results of the observation of the solar eclipse in this neighborhood are insignificant," says the Berlin correspondent of the London Times, "some interesting reports are given of the effects upon the lower animals of the untimely obscuration of the sun. Foresters state that the birds, which had already begun to sing before the eclipse took place, became of a sudden quite silent, and showed signs of disquiet when darkness set in. Herds of deer ran about in alarm, as did the small four-footed game. In Berlin a scientific man arranged for observations to be made by bird-dealers of the conduct of their feathered stock, and the results are found to deviate considerably. In some cases the birds showed sudden sleepiness, even though they had sung before the eclipse took place. In other cases great uneasiness and fright were observed. It is noticeable that parrots showed far more susceptibility than canaries, becoming totally silent during the eclipse, and only returning very slowly to their usual state."

The use of the word "butterine" has been legally forbidden in England. It must be called "margarine."

WISE WORDS.

Rebuke with soft words and hard arguments. The friendship of the artful is mere self interest.

Never think that you can make yourself great by making another less.

Let him who regrets the loss of time make proper use of that which is to come in the future.

Many lose the opportunity of saying a kind thing by waiting to weigh the matter too long.

What men want is not talent, it is purpose; not the power to achieve, but the will to labor.

Ideas generate ideas; like a potato, which, cut in pieces, reproduces itself in a mutilated form.

Our affections are like our teeth; they make us suffer while they are coming, after they have come, and when we lose them. They are not the less the simile of life.

Saratoga Chips.

"Do Saratoga chips come from Saratoga?" inquired a Mail and Express reporter of a New York grocer.

"Not much," said the grocer. "They are made in this city, and many are shipped to Saratoga. But if you want to know all about them just go up to the bakery and see how they are made."

At the bakery it was learned that the concern has a monopoly of the business in this city, and that there are only three makers of Saratoga chips in the country. Chips are an American institution, and are not known abroad save for some small lots that have been exported. The process of manufacturing is in part a secret. The potatoes are peeled and sliced by machinery. They are washed and dried between muslin clothes. If they were now fried the amount of starch that they contain would make them brown, and the secret of the business is to remove all of the starch, so that the chips will be perfectly white. When this is done they are put into the hot grease, and come out curled and crisp and with the delicious flavor that has made them famous the world over. Said the manager:

"We use seventy-five barrels of potatoes a week, keep seven bakers at work, and have three wagons out delivering. Hotels take them by the barrel, restaurants take them in twenty-five pound boxes, and for grocers to serve to private families we put them up in one pound cartons. The dining cars on nearly all the railroads use them, and we have sent some to England. Cities as far away as Jacksonville, Florida, and San Francisco send to us for Saratoga chips. They will keep for three months. A few minutes in a hot oven makes them as crisp as though they were just fried."

"Old Rough and Ready."

President Taylor was probably the only President to whom the presidency was an uncoveted and unsought for boon. Mrs. Taylor was so adverse to public life that it was said that she prayed every night during his candidacy for his defeat, and when told of his election, said: "Why could they not let us alone? We are so happy here. Why do they want to drag us to Washington?" Who that ever saw General Taylor at a levee could forget him? He grasped every new comer cordially by the hand, and saluted all, high and low, old maids, brides, young girls, all, with the words: "Glad to see you! Glad to see you! How's your family? Hope the children are all well." He hardly ever opened his mouth without making a mistake, and people laughed heartily. Still they loved him, trusted his judgment, and knew his heart and hand were true as steel; and when he died the whole nation was a mourner at his grave. When Major Donelson returned from Europe he introduced him at a dinner party as, "My friend Donelson, just from Berlin, Austria." During his candidacy Colonel W., a State elector, after discussing several public topics, asked him what were his views on the tariff. "The what, Jack?" said General Taylor, who stutted dreadfully. "The tariff, General, said Colonel W. "Why! what's that?" "It's sine qua non," said Colonel W., who was one of the greatest wags that ever lived, "that the people are much excited about now." "A sine qua non," said General Taylor, slowly; "I believe, Jack, I saw one in Mexico, but I forget what it looks like, and I'll be blamed if I have any views on the tariff."—Boston Budget.

To Tell the Age of a Horse.

To tell the age of any horse. Inspect the lower jaw, of course. The six front teeth the tale will tell And every doubt and fear dispel.

Two middle "nippers" you behold, Before the colt is two years old. Before eight weeks two more will come, Eight months the "corners" out the gum.

The outside grooves will disappear From middle two in just one year; In two years, from the second pair; In three, the corners, too, are bare.

At two the middle "nippers" drop, At three the second pair can't stop. When four years old, the third pair goes, At five a full new set he shows.

The deep black spots will pass from view At six years from the middle two; The second pair, at seven years; At eight the spot each "corner" clears.

From middle "nippers" upper jaw. At nine, the black spots will withdraw. The second pair at ten are white; Eleven finds the "corners" light.

As time goes on, the horsemen know The oval teeth three-sided grow. They longer get, project before, Till twenty when we know no more. —G. E. Martin, in Rural Stockman.

For weak lungs, spitting of blood, shortness of breath, consumption, night-sweats and all lingering coughs, Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" is a sovereign remedy. Superior to cod liver oil. By druggists.

In the city of Akron, Ohio, 60,000,000 matches are made daily.

Good for Hard Workers.

It is fully claimed and pretty well sustained that hard workers can accomplish almost twice as much and save themselves from illness and loss of time if they take eight cents worth per day of the extract of the Moxie Nerve Food Plant, now creating so much discussion. The dealers say its sale is the largest ever known. If a nervous woman gets hold of a bottle she gets the whole neighborhood talking about it, and a woman's curiosity has to be gratified if it costs the price of a bonnet.

LOUIS BOYDEN, who recently died at Worcester, Mass., at the age of eighty-five, had been blind for eighteen years, and in that time his sense of touch had developed in a marvelous manner. He could tell the denomination of a bill by feeling it, and he planted, weeded and cared for his large garden entirely by himself.

Life in the Paris Sewers

It is possible, for a short time to the robust, but the majority of refined persons would prefer immediate death to existence in their reeking atmosphere. How much more revolting to be in one's self a living sewer. But this is actually the case with those in whom the inactivity of the liver drives the refuse matter of the body to escape through the lungs, breath, the pores, kidneys and bladder. It is astonishing that life remains in such a dwelling. Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" restores normal purity to the system and renews the whole being.

In London, with all its numerous interests, with nearly 5,000,000 inhabitants and nearly 700,000 houses, there is no delivery of letters on the Sabbath. The same thing may be said of more than 4,000 country districts in Great Britain.

"Her face so fair, as flesh it seemed not, But heavenly portrait of bright angel's hue, Clear as the sky, without a blame or blot, Through goodly mixture of complexion due, And in her cheeks the vermeil red did show." This is the poet's description of a woman whose physical system was in a perfectly sound and healthy state, with every function acting properly, and is the enviable condition of its fair patrons produced by Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription." Any druggist.

The population of Great Britain is increasing at the rate of 1,000 a day.

In every community there are a number of men whose whole time is not occupied, such as teachers, ministers, farmers' sons, and others. To these classes especially we would say, if you wish to make several hundred dollars during the next few months, write at once to E. F. Johnson & Co., of Richmond, Va., and they will show you how to do it.

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"Feeling languid and dizzy, having no appetite and no ambition to work, I took Hood's Sarsaparilla, with the best results. As a health invigorator and medicine for general debility I think it superior to anything else."—A. A. RIKER, Albany St., Utica, N. Y. N. B.—Be sure to get the Peculiar medicine.

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