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### Topics of the Day in New York

#### A Trio of Notables--New Yorkers Who Save--Coal Strike Hits Hard

Special Correspondence of The Morning Post

By EMEL JAY

Society, church and state have received new gifts of light and life. The Duchess of Devonshire, Bishop Potter and J. Pierpont Morgan have landed in New York. The Duchess comes with the new glory of having assisted in holding the coronation emeralds over Queen Alexandra, and of seeing to it that she is in that sacred radiance.

Mr. Dooly says that "at Newport dollar meets dollar, and they marry and raise a large family of pennies and dimes and their centimes!"

Here it is the reverse. The pennies and dimes do the mating, and the dollars are the progeny. As for thirty cents, that phrase loses all scornful symbolism in this community.

#### WHERE PRINCE CHEN BANQUETED.

A party to Chinatown, the other day, caught the gay echoes of Prince Chen's visit, still reverberating even after two days had elapsed. The whole place was en fête. Banners were hung across the narrow streets. Bell and Mort, the two thoroughfares, showed shop-windows brilliant with fans and handkerchiefs and other gorgeous nothings. The theatre sounded its most deafening fan-fare.

And the funny little restaurant where the Prince banqueted--up two narrow, steep, dim flights of steps we found it a banquet hall of about 18 feet square. Rows of brilliant Chinese lanterns were hung across the ceiling. Great gorgeous crimson fans, half-opened, formed a frieze. A map of China with Chinese lettering hung on the wall; also banners as part of the decoration. Tables and stools were of ebony, the tables having a center of black marble that was very artistic. But out of all harmony with things Chinese was the marble-basined wash-stand in the corner. Suggestive of every sort of washing except the bath is our Mongolian friend!

#### SMILES AND CHOP SOOY.

"Mon Far Low" was the name of the restaurant--why "far" or why "low" were equally mysterious. Mr. Loo Lin, the manager, himself, waited upon us with a bonhomie that was a revelation in a Chinese. He knew how to smile. With his smiles he served chop sooy and rice and Long Son tea; and although there were knives and forks in deference to American perversion of taste, we tried our prowess with the chop-sticks, and managed to pilot successfully from plate to lips several mouthfuls. The tea-leaves and all--was served in the prettiest of little pink dishes with covers manipulated so skillfully that the clear beverage was poured off into small cups, the leaves remaining in the dish to await more hot water and appetite for a second cup. That tea was delicious; the rice could not have been better; but the chop sooy remained a stranger!

A look in the Joss house gorgeous with red-gaws, and into the Christian Mission with its simple hall, its Bible, and its minister, furnished a suggestive contrast.

#### WOMEN CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT.

The shops and streets were noticeably filled with Chinese men--not a woman, not a child. If women and children are among the 4,000 inhabitants of Chinatown, they are hidden away somewhere up those narrow, dark stairways.

And that is exactly the case, so it is said. Children are spirited away from the sunlight into darkness, and an unwholesome traffic in female shares goes on there within five minutes walk of New York's city hall. Hence the need of mission work. Hence the untiring devotion of Miss Sylvester and her father. Hence the indefatigable work of Mrs. Henry Clark, who, with the aid of the courts and the best educated Chinese, has succeeded in rescuing pretty little "Ah Soon" from an enforced life of shame.

New York, August 28.

#### ANCIENT ITALY

(Rome Letter to New York Observer.) The difficulty of guarding and preserving every precious thing in Italy is evident. Millions are spent every year in maintaining an army of men to direct, vigilante, excavate and study; but no laws and care are sufficient to keep all in perfect order. Some pictures, statues, jewels of Cellini, illuminated missals, tapestries and books will take their way there are copied. One of the leaning towers of Bologna threatens to fall, the mediaeval house of Della Porta at Novara is in danger of being demolished to give way to an ordinary habitation, and many a gem of architecture in country towns that should be already in possession of the state is yet a barn or a cow house. Yet this does not justify the criticisms of foreigners, who act as if they were the governors of the land.

The Italians are delighted to hear that the English who bitterly reproved them for the repairs made in the floor of St. Mark's at Venice, had sent a petition signed by 10,000 against the changes made in the centre of Florence, are using the precious Greek remains in the islands

of Cyprus for building purposes at Fort Said. The society of Greek studies in London is blind to this and deaf, while the people of Cyprus cry to the soldiers robbing the graves, "You are worse than the Turks!"

But none can regret more keenly than themselves the decay and dispersion of their country from the past. One archaeologist lamented the condition of the churches of Ravenna, especially the two distant from the city in the desert toward the sea. The lonely church of St. Apollinare which we visited, was green and slippery with moss, and lichens that grew even between the mosaics of the apses. The crypt was full of water and clusters of bats hung from the roof. The door of the bell tower of black serpent lay coiled, and the hoarse voice of crows alone broke the silence of the deserted temple. But this is not neglect. It is only overplus of riches. For the repairs made in the past two years, with artistic and scientific care in the mausoleum of Galla Placidia, in San Vitale and other churches of Ravenna have how highly these mosaics of the fifth and sixth centuries are valued.

The demolition of the ghetto, of Florence in the very heart of the city is admitted by the Florentines to have been a necessity for health and comfort. But the destruction of the best towers and uninhabitable buildings caused a wail of sorrow in some other countries. An album representing all those departed beauties was made, the sight of which is meant to make remorse and penitence. Let those beavers come and live in these dark, dirty, suffocating alleys, crooked stairs and low garrets. They would soon find that an open square with comfortable houses, where the light and health may enter, are preferable to old romance, however beautiful. Doubtless mistakes are made, for only true artists should ever touch the things of art, and a well known artist, who has the antique beauty of Florence or Venice. One of these unpardonable blunders is the present cleaning up of the Baptistery of Florence, the "bel San Giovanni," where nearly all the Florentines for 600 years have been baptized. The green slabs of marble from Prato, placed there by Arnolfo under the eyes of Dante and grown like velvet by the suns and storms of centuries have been replaced by shining new ones. All the marbles on the eight external sides of this perfect example of early Tuscan art have been pumiced and washed, so that it shines like the face of a schoolboy, and the finest and most valuable shades of color have disappeared from the marble forever. These tinted aged marbles, more precious than gems, are untouched on the face of Giotto, and the base of the latter, it is said, is condemned to be cleaned.

The sculptures made by Donatello in the sculptures of San Marco, formed by Medici are hidden by ancient stucco, which will, of course, now be removed. As a rule, all antiquities are regarded with veneration, and are carefully preserved. Much remains to be done in every city and town, but chiefly in Florence, Rome and Venice. The excavations made during the past three years in the Roman Forum have been seen by students and travelers from many lands. The marvelous discoveries there of twenty-two archaeological state below the level once considered final, of the fountain of Jeturina; the rostra of the republican tribunes; the tomb of Romulus; the Sacred way and now perhaps the road up from the Forum to the Palatine prove how intense is the interest of Romans and Italians in their past history.

The enormous castle in the heart of Milan, a relic of Middle Age tyranny and feudal government, that for centuries had been dismantled and reduced to barracks for soldiers of all nations--Spanish, Austrian, French--that conquered Milan, has been restored to its original splendor. In seven years it has been saved from certain decay and destruction, and its decorations and friezes repaired with care and skill; its garden replanted with trees and shrubs, and the great halls that were reserved for the residence of the birth of the court of Galeazzo Sforza converted into museums and galleries of pictures. Together with the Duomo, it is now the pride of Milan. The facade of the cathedral, is to be altered, but it remains to be seen whether the change will be an improvement. Many persons fear that the antique there is a project for building a new bridge over the lagoon entering the old city from the quiet part of the gardens and aristocratic palaces. Probably this will be done, as it is a necessity for the modern life of the city. Just such a project was made for the little steamboats that go up and down now continually on the Grand Canal. But who that uses them now as they stop every two minutes would be without them or return to the first gondolas? It is a false idolatry of the antique that worships dirt and ruin in the narrow, dark, damp calli, while men and women languish there for want of sun and fresh air, and the moral of the useless, even if old, is an advantage to the real treasures of architecture, which appear better when left free, like Palazzo tower in Florence, and in Rome, the tower of the Anguillari and the so-called Farnesina.

The Borghese Museum, in the lovely villa just outside of the Porta del Popolo in Rome, will be made the centre of a group of galleries and museums belonging to the state. The Borghese picture gallery, containing many precious old sculptures, have just been purchased, and will be transferred to the villa. The villa also has been purchased by the state and presented to the city of Rome. It will be joined by a bridge to the Pincian Park, and the whole will take the name of Umberto I. This is the memorial to the murdered and much beloved King, his son, Victor Emmanuel III, reserving to himself the privilege of placing an equestrian statue of Umberto on the highest point of the hill in the Piazza del Popolo below. This splendid park is a gift to the people of Rome. It will be a blessing and a benediction; a perpetual reminder of the King. It will be more useful to the city than the magnificent monument yet unfinished at the other end of the Corso in the Capitoline hill in memory of Victor Emmanuel II.

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