

SIDELIGHT ON SYRIAN LIFE

Writer Gives an Insight Into His Life as a Small Boy in That Little Known Country.

The roads were open. Travelers came into our village. Scarcely a night was the guest house in our courtyard unoccupied. I liked to sit with my father and his guests in this room, built after European style with four large windows over which in winter oiled paper was passed to keep the cold out.

There were chairs in this room. I was very proud that we should own chairs, but I found them most uncomfortable to sit on. After a few moments my legs began to ache and I slipped down on the cushions.

Among the travelers that came along the road was Hady, the singer. He was the ugliest man that I had ever seen, sore-eyed, pock-marked and dirty. But he was very wise. His ivory handled dagger in its silver sheath was so long that it reached from his chest to his hips.

BARGAIN AT \$30 A MONTH

Chinese Boy With "Exceptional Knowledge of English" Should Have Been Snapped Up Quickly.

The following application for employment was received by a Shanghai hong from a student in the Shanghai college:

"Nothing is of less importance than the age of a person; nevertheless, it is proper to begin that I am in my twenty-first year. Having a firm ambition to do some service in the business world, I grasp this opportunity to insert myself into the sphere. It is true that many are now wandering idly in the market awaiting employment. But it is true to the same extent that many of these, if not all, are good for nothing. To take notice upon them, or to put some duty upon them is to give gun powder to children as a plaything. The danger can be imagined.

"I am now going to give some account of my personal abilities. It is not too much to say that my knowledge of English can hardly be represented to the full color by such a little adjective as 'thorough.' It is exceptionally excellent, to be outspoken. As to the art of typewriting, my hand goes on as smoothly as to skate on an icy river. With such intellectual weapons any hard duties can be as easily conquered as an egg shell by a wave. The salary I look for would be \$30 a month.

"Awaiting your answer earnestly I am, Sir, —North China Gazette.

Robin is Inventor.

The robin lives in trees and partly on the ground, so that it sometimes hops, like birds that live in trees, and sometimes walks or runs, like birds that live on the ground. The robin is a plucky little fellow. He will stand up for himself, and refuses to let other birds put upon him. Generally he lives alone—sometimes with a mate, but never do you find robins in flocks.

This little bird can claim to be the inventor of pottery. Look at a robin's nest and you will see that it is a clay pot, set into a pile of straw. When a robin has finished with a nest, take it and put it on the fire, having first thoroughly dried it. Leave it on the fire until all the straws have been burnt, and if it has not broken, you will find that you have a perfectly good earthen pot. —Pearson's Weekly.

Peculiar Manx Cats.

The origin of Manx cats is now attributed to the arrival of these cats on the Isle of Man from ships belonging to the Spanish armada that were wrecked there. They were probably brought from Japan or eastern Asia. They are a distinct species with short forelegs, and elevated hindquarters, and differ from other cats somewhat in call, ways, and character. They vary in color. People who have owned them for long periods say they are not good mousers or hunters. In character they are rather similar to a dog, being highly companionable and having some of the qualities of a guardian, but they are not considered hunters in any sense of the word.

Sense of Obligation.

"What a wonderful thing it would be if Shakespeare were alive today?" "I wish he were," said Mr. Stormington Barnes, earnestly. "I should like to meet him. I'm sure he would be very grateful to me for the manner in which I have interpreted his poetry."

—When you see it in the "Watchman" you know its true.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

MONKEY TALK

"It is well that all creatures do not like the same food," said the Monkey. "for if they did so much food would go to waste and there wouldn't be enough of the other kind."

"I mean if we all liked the same kind of food there wouldn't be enough of that kind for every single creature, and then all the kinds of food we didn't care for would go to waste—if no one cared for other kinds, I mean."

"I'm glad to know what you mean," said Miss Monkey. "By the way, I hear they are very anxious to have another gorilla in the zoo. Dinah was an interesting creature for all her queer ways."

"Yes," said the Monkey, "they are very interested in having a new monkey. I've also been told there are lots of other animals they want. They like to have a huge zoo here with plenty of interesting creatures."

"They want an Okapi, which is a queer animal, I believe. The Okapi comes from Africa and looks a little bit like a giraffe."

"They do not believe they will ever get one, though, for those creatures are very rare. Once, I'm told, a zoo had one Okapi, but that is all."

"Then they want a White Rhinoceros badly, but they're afraid they can't get one, because the White Rhino is a very rare creature, too."

"They'll be pleased, though, to have an Indian Rhino, which is larger than the African Rhino. The White Rhino



"I Saw You Swinging."

hides away in long grass when he is being looked for, and it is hard to get him.

"Then they want a Takin goat and some wild goats and some antelopes."

"They'd like to have a handsome giraffe from East Africa and a Pygmy Elephant."

"Of course they'd like some more of the regular animals."

"What do you mean by regular animals?" asked Miss Monkey.

"Like ourselves and the lions and the tigers and the usual elephants, and all the others."

"We're very fine, of course, and interesting, but we're not very, very rare."

"It means a lot to be rare, of course, for then folks want to see you so much. They want to see the new and queer beast they've never seen before."

"But still it is nice to be known, for then one is greeted as an old friend."

"Yes, when the children come in here they look at me and they say:

"Oh, see the monkey!"

"They know me and they know you, too, Miss Monkey."

"I think it is nice to be known as an old friend, and not to have people say when they see you:

"Oh, what strange looking animal is that?"

"But we were talking about food," continued Miss Monkey. "I'm thinking that a taste of banana would be very nice, too. Doubtless the snake thinks an egg or so would be pleasant, and the lion wants plenty of meat, and the Sea Lion wants plenty of fish."

"I am hungry for supper because I have had plenty of exercise today. I have some nice new tricks to show you, which I tried today."

"I saw you swinging back and forth, catching yourself by your tail and by your hands and in all sorts of ways," said Mr. Monkey. "I could see you were trying out some new tricks and I'll be glad to see them."

"Let's give a circus performance tomorrow," said Miss Monkey, "and if no one else comes to our circus, at least the keeper will, for he is always interested in seeing any new tricks we have to perform."

"He will watch us, and he will be very proud of us, and he will smile as he sees us. Then he will take us out of our cages and he'll pet us. We'll pet him, too, and knock of his hat, just to tease him. How we will laugh at him when we do that."

"Then he'll pick up his hat and put it on again, and once more we'll knock it off, and again we'll laugh."

"What a good time we do have," said Mr. Monkey. "What lots of fun, especially with the keeper."

"You're right," agreed Miss Monkey.

Good Imitations.

Eva, aged five, was visiting in the country and, seeing a lot of sheep and lambs for the first time, exclaimed: "Oh, mamma, just look at the cute little lambs, and they're such good imitations, too. They look just like my toy lamb and have the same kind of hair on."

SHORT FUR COATS

Novelties Have Been Launched by Paris Designers.

Band Trimmings of Embroidery Done on Bright-Colored Cloth; Satin Lining to Match.

Novelties launched by Paris designers are short box coats of fur, with band trimmings of lovely embroidery done on bright-colored cloth. The coats are lined with satin to match the embroidery, and the general effect is one of youth, simplicity and becomingness.

Another novelty launched by the same maker is the short shoulder cape and deep gauntlet cuffs of astrakhan, to be worn with the heavy wool street dress. The vest of fur is new and comfortable for motoring. It may or may not have sleeves of crepe de chine. Another designer shows a model made of beaver fur with sleeves of crepe de chine.

Inexpensive or substitute furs are very much used by Paris dressmakers. Dyed rabbit, dyed squirrel, dyed sheep skin, masquerading under various names, as petit-gris-lustre, zibelin



Shoulder Cape and Gauntlet Gloves

Parisienne, agneau, etc., are successfully used for these, as well as for trimming purposes. The novelty is yet to be tasted.

Among the smartest of the so-called costumes is a camel's-hair dress in chemise form with bell sleeves and high collar. It buttons from neckline to hem with tan bone buttons. An accompanying cape reaching below the hips is circular, although it may be had in straight effect as well, and has a collar of raccoon fur. Long ribbon ends which tie the cape are trimmed with balls of fur.

FROCKS TO WEAR AT DANCES

Lace Skirt With Taffeta Bodice Among Favorites That Have Appeared This Season.

A lace skirt with a taffeta bodice is among the frocks that have made their appearances at dances. There was a full lace skirt, in cream color, and a bodice of mauve taffeta, that were most interesting as a combination for an evening frock. Then there was one with a skirt made in three tiers of black lace flounces, with a darted and fitted bodice of black taffeta. To be sure, this was worn by a girl whose hair was a brilliant red, so that nothing was taken from its youthfulness, as the hair supplied the necessary note of color and sparkle.

The slippers and stockings of the present season are worthy of mention—more so than they have ever been before. They are taking a place of prominence that has not been granted them for a long, long time. Indeed sometimes they are the sole trimming and note of color, and for this reason they must be regarded with reverence, even with awe.

Silver slippers and those made of cloth of gold are famous from fairy tale days, to be sure, but now they have stepped into real life with a vengeance. Hardly a twinkling foot but shows the glint of precious metal about its toes. And there are slippers made of brilliant brocades—even sandals, and those with heels that are given every appearance of a veritable sandal. Often one sees light-colored stockings (even those with apparently no color at all), that are worn with black pumps. These, in fact, are the rule rather than the exception, and it is quite extraordinary to see feet and legs clad in the same color, unless that color happens to be something more than extraordinarily brilliant.

Buckles, when there are any, are apt to be rather inconspicuous. The brocades are the thing, and they are used to make the whole slipper, with its intricacies of strappings over the instep.

Girdles in Variety.

A good deal of interest centers around the girdle which a frock adopts. The trend at present, it is said, is to make the hips appear as large as possible by means of padded girdle effects, or fur running through velvet loops, and the apron effects are also mentioned. Girdles of metal and girdles of ribbon onto which cabochons, buckles and metal squares have been applied are being shown in the New York shops to the exclusion of any other kind of a belt. Wooden beads, too, in fantastic designs and colors are popular, for the girdle at the moment is the decorative feature of the costume.

SLEEPING IN SIBERIA.

"A snow-bound Siberian village in the full light of day," says an American who has seen service in that quarter of the globe, "looks about as desolate and uninviting a place as you can well imagine, but to the traveler who enters it at night, after a long day of sledding against the wind, its cheeriness is overwhelming."

"I found Brookhanover a very pleasant spot. Every little window blazed out its warm welcome. Here and there I caught the glint of a brass samovar on a table with a knot of people sitting around it. Cascades of sparks poured from chimneys. Men's voices rose to accompany the brayings and beatings of an accordion."

"We stopped at a two-story log cottage. Supper was a banquet of soup, potatoes, meat, bread and milk. There was no guest room here; so I went to bed with the rest of the family—men, women and children."

"Going to bed in a Siberian peasant's hut is a simple matter. You take a blanket or two, cocoon yourself in them, lie down on the floor, and

go to sleep then and there. There are no bedrooms, no beds. You do not disrobe. Men, women and children, cats and dogs, chickens, ducks, and turkeys, lie down side by side. The last person to turn in stacks pine logs into the stove to its fullest capacity. Then he extinguishes the lamp and another day is over. Sometimes there will be a bench, a pair of chests or a niche in the wall to serve as a couch; and sometimes the grandfather or grandmother of the household exercises the prerogative of sleeping on the flat, whitewashed top of the brick stove, hazardous as that may seem. But in the great majority of cases every one, with a fine democracy, shares the floor."

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THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA advertisement. Text: 'Any boy born in the United States may some day be president of the Republic. Any town large enough to have a postoffice may, some day become a metropolis with subways and skyscrapers. To keep pace with the growth, fast or slow, of every community they serve is the ambition of the men and women in the Bell Telephone organization. To give good service today and to anticipate the needs of that service tomorrow is a responsibility we all feel. The Bell Telephone System is not a garment to be outgrown and then discarded. It is a living thing that grows and develops as conditions require. Each community's telephone service is a unit in itself but it is also a part of a nation-wide system. Every new improvement though it be developed three thousand miles away is available to every Bell office where it may be used in giving a better and more economical service.' Local Manager: C. W. HEILHECKER