

Unacceptable Prayers.

I do not like to hear him pray. On knotted knees about an hour, For grace to spend against the day, Who knows his neighbor has no fear.

THE AUCTIONEER'S STORY.

This is a strange world! And yet I never thought so until my attention was called to the fact by a little incident that befell me one day, and set me off thinking so hard that I seemed to grow out of my own head and reach a great height, and then look down on my other self with compassion.

But I had never thought of the story connected with any one article of the sale—of the heartaches, of despair, and woman's tears. It was but a joke to me, who had known the time when to "spout" a watch, or pistol, or some light trinket, in order to carry on a frolic, or help a poorer chap than I was, was but the impulse of the moment, and carried no further weight than the relief from empty pockets at the moment.

But, as I have said before, something made me think, and ever since I haven't the same heart to cry away the goods of the poor creatures that want and misery have driven into old Two to One's clutches.

The city of B— is a splendid market for our business. The trade done there by one house alone would discount any banking, commission or other business in the place, and by the same token, the pawnbrokers' equal us in power and profit, and give us some of our biggest sales.

"What can I do for you, madam?" I asked. She had been looking all around her, as if seeking something. "You sell the goods, do you not?" she said, eagerly.

"Thank you! I am looking for a cedar cabinet," said the lady, gently, "which was among the articles I parted with to Clutchem & Keep, and am told it was sent here for sale. I wish to redeem it at any price."

I tried to think to whom I had sold a cabinet that day; then it flashed on me that there had not been one in the catalogue.

"I could not grieve, except that he died in his sin; unforgiven by me. I was poor, for he left me only the household furniture, and have toiled all these years to maintain my children. So, for their sakes, I applied to a lawyer to obtain possession of the estate."

"I am the auctioneer, madam," I said, wondering what was wrong. "I will call the firm, if you wish."

THREE YOUNG LIONS.

How the Mother Guards Her Young—The Boy Cub, the Mother's Favorite.

Jennie, the African lioness at the Cincinnati Zoo, gave birth recently to three cubs, one male and two females. It was in a cage darkened so that every particle of light was shut off, and the other afternoon, half-past two, one of the doors was taken down by Superintendent Stevens and a fine view of the mother and children was presented to the reporter.

"The most noticeable feature about the lion family was the devotion of the mother. Every few minutes she turned and licked them. Her eyes never left the visitors, whose every motion she noticed, and when she came in from the out-door cage after the cubs had been handled, she bounded in, and, standing in the open door, paused a moment, as if to say, something is coming, and I knew it."

"India," said a gentleman, who has recently been traveling in the East, "ranks third among the wheat-growing countries of the earth, and while the territory devoted to that industry includes only 165,000 square miles, and machinery used in cultivation is nearly half as much wheat raised as in the entire United States, where the finest machinery known to man is employed in every operation, from the first plowing till the grain is harvested."

"The average yield is about fourteen bushels to the acre, but the poor farmer can seldom afford to eat a loaf of wheat bread, his diet consisting almost entirely of herbs and fruits."

In a corner of the city square the house can be run up in a couple of hours. The denizens of the quarter subscribe, the local mandarin assists, and straightway the theater is in full working order. Costumes, scenery, appointments—to all these luxuries the Chinese is profoundly indifferent. He asks no more than a good play and a half dozen actors; that much is enough for him.

"The Chinese drama there are as many styles as there are literary epochs in Chinese history. Each style is appropriated to a particular epoch, and has a name of its own. Thus the dramas of the Mongol period are known as Joys of Established Peace; those of the Song dynasty as Diversions of the Quiet Streets; those of the Song emperors as Diversions of the Woods in Flower, and so forth. The best are the Tsai-ki plays, which belong to the Yung period, the greatest in Chinese literary annals. Of these, so far as we can discover, one of the finest examples is the Pi-Pa-Ki, or Story of the Lute."

"The Chinese have invented many things, and among them is the vaudeville. A peculiarity of all those pieces—indeed, of the whole Chinese drama—is that certain parts of the dialogue are spoken and certain parts are sung. When the actor makes a statement, he makes it in his natural voice; but when he has to point a moral, or express a philosophical idea, he does it in song. Applied to our own stage, this practice would have admirable results. For instance, the sailor would dash to the rescue of the injured heroine with his accustomed lurch, and the "Back, villain! Dastards, come on!" of old time. Then, however, uplifting his manly baritone to music, he would warble forth the well-known moral, and in melody declare that the man who would lay his hand upon a woman, saving in the way of kinship is unworthy the name of an Englishman. This example, and the reflection that in England as in China every actor would be (as it were) his own slow music, may perhaps suffice."

"In China, where everything is old, the stage is one of the oldest and most popular of institutions. It is recognized as a moral agency, and it is kept from backsliding by edicts the most rigorous and drastic, the most respectable in quality; its drama fills some thousands of volumes; it has its laws, its conventions, its traditions, its genres, its types, for all the world like the great theatres of the west. As in Japan to-day, as in the seventeenth century France and Jacobin England, its servants are outcasts and celebrities at once. It is the thing for high-toned mandarins and persons of consideration to have play-houses of their own (as was the fashion in the France of Pompadour and Mme. de Mairne), and to treat their guests to after-dinner performances by companies specially engaged; while, as for strollers playing for the million, the flowery land may fairly be said to teem with them. It costs little or nothing to manage a traveling theatre."

"It is said that a movement is afoot at Shippensburg, Pa., to have the old race track west of the town repaired and put in proper condition for speeding horses."

HORSE NOTES.

—Majolica, 2.15, will most likely only be entered in special purse races this season.

—The first meeting of the New Jersey Trotting-Horse Breeders' Association will be held at Flemington on August 17 and 18.

—William Meaney, the jockey who was expelled by the National Jockey Club in October, 1883, for pulling the horse Jim McGowan, now Bourke Cochran, has been reinstated. Meaney has been in Australia since his expulsion.

—John Murphy, who is matched to ride twenty-five miles with C. M. Anderson over the New York Driving Club track, on May 15, for \$1000, is getting himself into shape for the event. Each man is allowed five horses, and a change must be made at the end of each mile. Murphy's horses will be J. O. Nay, A. L. C., Bluestring, Ghost and De Barry.

—The little b. g. Matchless, (Mattie Lyle's colt) record 2.37, will be campaigned, and so on and ch. m. Lady Alert, 2.34, by Mambrino Lance. Vargrave, b. s. by Woodford Mambrino, dam Virginia, by Alexander's Abdallah, is expected to make a trotter. Others in Turner's string are: Frank Ellis, b. s. 2.29, by Hermes; Dom Pedro, b. s. 2.21, by Bashaw; a bay filly (4) by Kentucky Prince, and a 6-year-old chestnut gelding.

FASHION NOTES.

—Sateens multiply in every important phase of progression.

—White lilac is a favorite in Paris among the artificial flowers, which are this season both more beautiful and more reasonable than ever.

—A mourning novelty is a fine English crape with applique figures in fine Lombardine or drap d'ete with black silk embroidery. It is cut out between the figures and leaves a semi-transparent fabric of great effectiveness. It comes in full-width goods for wraps, and in several widths of flouncing for edgings and trimmings.

—There are a very few fancy feathers on imported hats, and those shown do not present any new features. Some aigrettes of herons' feathers, and some very choice bird-of-paradise feathers in closer curls, will be worn; but birds will be used to a limited extent, humming birds and other tiny specimens having the preference.

—There are many indications that blues, purples and lavenders are to be much worn this summer. The Parisian correspondent of La Bon Ton, one of the most reliable of French-American fashion publications, says in a recent letter: "From time to time we come back to our old idols. For a long period we have not worn any violet, but for this season this charming color will be recalled from the exile to which it has been so long banished. Even now for ball dresses a great many flowers and ribbons in mauve color are worn. Charming dresses are made of mauve and straw-colored silk. Is there anything more pretty than a garment of white over a straw-colored tulle or brocade dress, or a garment of glyceria over a white or black lace toilet?"