

## THE TURKISH IDEA OF HUMOR

In the Land of the Crescent the Drama is Practically Unknown, Consequently Professional Story Tellers Hold Sway at the Coffee Houses, Where they Tell Their Stories to Audiences who Never Weary of the Same Old Anecdotes Told for Centuries—Some Samples of the Turkish Idea of a Good Story as Told by a Salt Laker Who Has Often Listened to Them.

The drama in Turkey is practically unknown. One of the principal causes being the separation of sexes, which is the universal custom in Mohammedan lands. There are, however, in the coffee houses, many professional story tellers, who are listened to as we might listen to a favorite comedian. The tales are generally of two classes, one of love, often of a sensuous order, although in this respect the Turk does not offend as much as tales in Arab localities; and the other are usually the adventures of certain persons in which a mixture of smartness and simplicity are the leading features. Many of these stories have been handed down and repeated for centuries, and although like our circus jokes, they are hoary with age, they are listened to with the greatest attention, and when told by an expert, as we listen to a play written generations ago, and which we have seen a number of times previously.

The sympathy of the audience is often with the sharp, scornful against the honest simpleton, provided he has the wit to carry out his design successfully. In an English theater when the villain Iago, who by his insinuations causes the murder of Othello, is looked down upon with a species of contempt. We must judge many of these eastern tales more or less from this standpoint.

The following will also show the great respect that is paid to an oath, when lying in matters of business and every day affairs, is not by any means regarded to be a fault of any great magnitude.

The story is about a Jew who deceives a Turk of an amount of money. The Jew purchased of the Turk goods to be paid for in so many pieces of gold, but on payment being due, the Jew claimed he had already paid it, which he had not done. The dispute was left to the judge, where the Jew again made the same statement that he had paid a certain number of pieces of gold to the Turk. To remedy this, a false statement is looked upon as a trivial offense, but to swear a false oath would be one of those crimes which bring the heaviest punishment on the offender. A customer was one day to swear to making the payment. He did so unhesitatingly, giving his staff to the Turk to hold while he went to the bank to get the money. On his return, he found the staff in the hands of the Turk, who had not received the money, one oath would offset the other.

The Jew had not broke the letter of his oath, if he had the spirit of it, as he had put the piece of gold in the Turk's hand, before swearing to do so; they being contained in the staff which he gave the Turk to hold during the time of the formality of the oath taking.

Another story in which the spirit and the letter of the word are not quite the same thing and which has been handed down from Byzantine times, is that of the building of the great church of the Mohammedan mosque, of San Sapha at Constantinople, the emperor desired a small piece of land to complete the site, which the owner, an extremely vain man, would on no account part with. After many conferences the owner of the piece of land made the proposition that he would sell the land for its value, and provided also the emperor's guards and all the chief dignitaries of the empire would publicly parade and salute him on the hippodrome and do homage to him as they would to the emperor. No other terms being acceptable, the emperor agreed to it, and at the time appointed the chief officers of state in uniform, and the guards and troops of the empire, marched past the grand stand, where the vain owner of the small piece of land was seated and saluted with all the homage demanded by an eastern potentate. He, however, did not get the satisfaction he expected, and the procession did not feel the degradation of giving the imperial salute they otherwise would have done, as, although the owner of the small piece of land was seated on the grand stand in the place of the emperor, he was placed with his back to the procession during the time it marched past and saluted, and he saw nothing of it.

Now for a story of very common rank of life. It is about a shoemaker and his apprentice. The shoemaker purchased some bread and honey. Honey is a great delicacy in a land where, at the present time, many families will make a pound of sugar last, then a year, where the soldiers in the rationed city and where the purchase of a sack of sugar would be the common people give the idea of extreme wealth or extravagance. After bringing the bread and honey into the shop, the shoemaker called away on business. He gave the bread and honey to the boy, and told him on no account to eat the honey as it was poisonous and would certainly kill him. After his master's departure the apprentice's longing for something sweet, obtained the mastery over the instructions he had received, and he devoured the entire amount of the honey and threw the bread away.

On the shoemaker's return, and on his looking for the food, the boy said, "Respected master, after you left I met a very precious misfortune: a dog came into the shop while I was idle and seized all the bread and ran off with it. I know you would be ex-

tremely angry with me for my carelessness, and I was afraid you would beat me severely, so I determined to commit suicide by eating the honey, but although I have eaten the whole of it, I am not yet dead."

As another example of this kind, a wood cutter, delivering wood, as is customary in these lands with the load tied on the back of a donkey, enters a barber's shop and endeavors to sell his wood. The barber, in the interior districts of the Levant, in addition to shaving, hair cutting, pulling teeth, performing the operation of circumcision, often shear sheep in their shops. As is customary, a bargain had to be struck, the wood cutter asking more, and the barber offering less than he expected to pay. At last a bargain was struck, the barber asking for and the wood cutter agreeing to give, all the wood on the donkey's back. Horses, donkeys and camels in the countries referred to, carry a very heavy wooden pack saddle. This is often kept on at night, donkey and horse drivers claiming by taking this heavy wooden saddle off, the animals would catch cold. The wood cutter used on the donkey would be many times the value of the load of wood, and in some instances it would weigh nearly as much. After unloading the wood the wood cutter asked for his pay. The barber says, "What is the reason you have not unloaded all the wood?" The wood cutter replied he had unloaded it all. The barber said he had bought all the wood on the donkey's back and the saddle made of wood he wanted it, in addition to the wood loaded. The wood cutter claimed he did not sell the saddle. The judge was sent for who gave his decision in favor of the barber, as the saddle was made of wood and the donkey's back at the time the transaction was made. The wood cutter was compelled to submit and nothing was heard from him for some time. After a time the wood cutter again came to the barber's shop, this time asking the barber how much he would charge to shave him and his companion. He wanted the big shave, which means shaving portions of the head and body in addition to the face.

After the chattering, which seems necessary in these lands, a bargain was struck, and the wood cutter took off his turban, etc., and got ready to be shaved, was denuded of surplus hair and received the toilet attentions customary. He then went out to bring in his companion, who he did shortly, it being the companion from whom the saddle was taken some time previously. The barber wanted to know the reason the wood cutter was bringing the donkey into the shop. The wood cutter stated the donkey was his companion and that he wanted him to have a thorough shave, as the agreement called for. On the refusal of the barber to shave the donkey, the judge was again sent for, who, on hearing that the barber had agreed to shave the woodcutter and his companion, and as no questions had been asked about his companion, compelled the barber to give a thorough shave to the woodcutter's long eared friend.

There are also hundreds of stories about a certain Khoja (teacher), about whose simplicity, with sometimes a certain underlying anger, the story generally hangs. He is in some respects like the Irish Handy Andy, with eastern customs and habits of thought. We relate one of them, as it is somewhat in the line of the foregoing stories.

Hawking in former times used to be a sport much practiced both in Europe and Asia. According to the laws of falconry, when the hood was taken off the hawk's eyes, and he was shown his prey, and on his alighting on the back of any wild animal or bird, whether it was a rabbit, pheasant or what it might be, the prey was the property of the owner of the hawk.

Our friend being the owner of a hawk he unhooded it and let it fly, though there was at that time no particular quarry in sight. The hawk, however, alighted on the back of a cow, who was feeding in the pasture, the hawk having grubs in the back, a not uncommon trouble with cows and oxen in our own and other lands, and began pecking at the grubs. The hawk having lighted on the cow, our simple minded Khoja claimed the cow, and started to drive her to his residence.

Of course the owner stopped such a proceeding, but the judge had to be sent for. The Khoja claimed the cow according to what he said was the laws of falconry, and also to help matters a little, promised to make the judge a breakfast time a present of a bucket of milk. This might only be a little present, but in eastern lands, where much of it occurs, they would call it a bribe and speak about it as a bribe and similar appellatives. The judge's decision must have been somewhat warped by the promises made him, for he decided in favor of the Khoja. Next morning promptly at the appointed time, the judge was presented with what appeared to be a bucket of milk, but the bucket only contained a little milk on top, the remainder of the bucket being filled with soil. The judge, on the discovery of the contents of the bucket, angrily asked the Khoja if he was expected to eat dirt for his breakfast. The Khoja was not at all put out, but in his simple minded way asked the judge if he could not just as well eat dirt for his breakfast, as he had eaten dirt (taken a bribe) for his supper the night before.

Hundreds of tales are told to the credit of this Khoja, a large portion of a certain kind of humorous tales being assigned to him, just as in those lands certain every great ruin you enquire about, is assigned to either Abraham, Solomon or Alexander the Great.

These, however, will give some idea of the humorous stories related in the coffee houses of Turkey, and told by professional raconteurs, which, told with more or less poetry and oriental imagery, will give some idea of the humor of the stories a hundred times previously.

THOMAS P. PAGE.

## ABOUT CANCER AND CONSUMPTION.

Infant mortality, consumption and cancer were the subjects on which the British Medical Association concentrated its discussion at its recent meeting in Manchester. Dr. J. M. Rhodes told a painful story of the sacrifice of child life through the ignorance and criminal negligence of mothers. In 1900, out of 207,162 children born, 142,912 died before they were a year old. There is a direct relation between high infant mortality and the illiteracy of mothers. It is startling to learn that the infant mor-

tality was great as it was half a century ago. The figures related wholly to English cities, they apply to American cities as well. Manchester has an exceptionally bad record—138 per 1,000 die in the first year of life. It is strikingly suggestive that in one district, Chesham, the mortality is only 121 per 1,000. This is a district with a large Jewish population. Most Jewish mothers suckle their babies, they work at home, there is little drunkenness and little illegitimacy. Forty-six per cent of illegitimate children die in Manchester, 60 per cent in Ancoats and 66 per cent in Crumpleholme. Dr. Rhodes denounced the feeding-bottle with the

long tube as a prolific cause of infant mortality and baby-farming was strongly condemned.

The relation of phthisis to factory and workshop conditions was introduced by Dr. Niven. His main point was that consumption is spread by the habit of spitting, the germs being disseminated in the dust which is raised by sweeping. He drew a heavy indictment against public houses or drinking saloons as places in which the filthy habit chiefly prevails. He urged that spitting in workshops should be prohibited and that the floors should be kept scrupulously clean and that vigorous efforts should be made to secure a systematic wet sweeping of factory floors. Hospital provision was need for the removal of consumptives from crowded homes.

Delivering an address on cancer in women, Prof. W. J. Sinclair of Owens college took a hopeful tone. He has little faith in drugs, but the operation of total extirpation, at an early stage, is proving one of the greatest triumphs of modern surgery. As a rule cancer patients consulted the doctor when it was clearly too late to perform any operation justifying the hope of cure, or even prolonged immunity; and many cases sought advice for the first time only when it was almost too late to palliate. A popular delusion which stood in the way of early diagnosis of some forms of cancer was the belief that pain was an inevitable symptom of cancer. When the sufferer from cancer began to complain of pain they all knew now that the disease was too far advanced for radical treatment.

So widely prevalent are these diseases that everyone should give careful attention to the simple suggestions of these distinguished physicians. Prevention is better than cure, and the observance of Dr. Niven's suggestions as to the bad habit of spitting would prevent many cases of consumption. It means much for the protection of humanity from the ravages of these diseases that specialists are devoting so much attention to their cures as well as to their cure. The discovery of the causes is more important than the discovery of the cure; for if the causes are known protection from them may be secured and thus cures be unnecessary.

### HOW TO AID THE DROWNING.

In discussing the subject of accidental drowning a professional swimmer said that everyone should give careful attention to the simple suggestions of these distinguished physicians. Prevention is better than cure, and the observance of Dr. Niven's suggestions as to the bad habit of spitting would prevent many cases of consumption. It means much for the protection of humanity from the ravages of these diseases that specialists are devoting so much attention to their cures as well as to their cure. The discovery of the causes is more important than the discovery of the cure; for if the causes are known protection from them may be secured and thus cures be unnecessary.

"Don't be in a hurry," he says, "to reach the drowning man. He must come up several times while his lungs are being emptied of air and filled with water, and he will be less hard to handle after his struggles have made him weak. Don't wait in the boat or on shore, but don't hurry to the helpless man in the water. The man in the water should be approached from behind. If possible, if this is impossible, the rescuer should keep the man at arm's length until he can grab him by the hair or get a grip on his bathing suit. While the long haired man is the easiest to handle, the naked man is the most difficult. The rescuer takes the left hand in his left hand, and makes for the boat or shore, but is prepared at any moment to give the man a kick and send him away from him if he shows inclination to hug his rescuer and drag him down.

"Do not run the risk of exhausting yourself by trying to keep the drowning man's head out of water, just drag him along like you would a stick. He will have to be worked over anyway, and he is pretty nearly as well off unconscious as half so."—N. Y. Tribune.

### HUMOROUS.

Mrs. Burns—"I know; but you are not his wife."

Barnes—"I hear your house was broken into 't other night and lots of silver plate and jewelry stolen."

Shedd—"Yes; but the rascals entirely overlooked the ten tons of coal in the cellar."

Fidgett—"They say that poets are born, not made."

Midgett—"Guess that's so; saw one borne off on a shutter from the newspaper office this morning."

Turner—"Saw you coming out of a saloon last night."

Twister—"Yes, went in to inquire the shortest way to my lodgings."

Turner—"They must have told you wrong, if the route you were traveling was the one they told you. It was as crooked as a snake fence."

Angry Mother—"Now, Bobby, don't let me speak to you again!"

Bobby (helplessly)—"How can I prevent you, mamma?"—Boston Globe.

"You know kissing can produce injurious consequences."

"In what way?"

"Oh, it has sometimes resulted in marriage!"—Lustige Blaetter.

"Don't you know that your office boy is a very aggressive and overbearing person?"

"Yes," said the business man. "It's not a bad idea. No matter how hurried or annoyed I may be, I impress a caller as good-natured, compared to the office boy."—Washington Star.

She—Yes! I'll go, if you'll promise not to get impatient while I'm dressing. You always seem to think that my appearance is a matter of no moment."

He—On the contrary, my dear, it is usually a matter of a great many!—Brooklyn Life.

"I wonder what makes a man's hair fall out so fast when once it starts?"

"Worry," answered the man who always has an explanation ready. "Nothing tends to make a man bald so much as worry, and nothing worries a man so much as the idea that he is becoming bald."—Tid-Bits.

Minister (visiting prison)—How can you say there have been successes in your life?

Bunco Pete—Why, man, in my time I've film-stripped a phenolist, a character reader and a criminologist.—Judge.

Singletown—"The woman I marry must be an ideal housekeeper."

Wederley (with a sigh)—Take my tip, old man, and freeze on to a practical one.—Chicago News.

Really a Convenience.—"Scribbles is writing a new novel, in which the hero and heroine are a deaf and dumb couple, the mutual friend."

"How queer!" comments the other mutual friend. "Oh, I don't know. He says it's a great convenience. When he gets tired of inventing new conveniences for the rest of the chapter, while he writes about the scenery or the weather."—Judge.

A high school girl said to her father the other night:

"Papa, I've got a sentence here I'd like to have you punctuate. You know something about punctuation, don't you?"

"A little," said her cautious parent, as he took the slip of paper handed him.

A five-dollar note blew round the corner.

He studied it carefully.

"Well," he finally said, "I'd simply put a period after it."

# LOW PRICES! EASY TERMS!

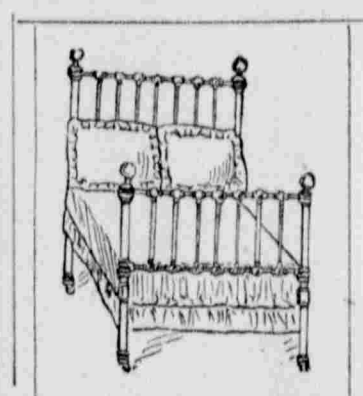
HIGH QUALITY!

HONEST METHODS!

STERLING VALUES!

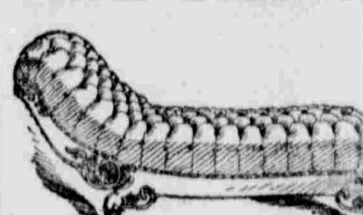
Five Magnetic Points That Draw the Crowds of Eager Buyers Here!

### Iron Beds.



SUBSTANTIALLY CONSTRUCTED IRON BEDS, made of best malleable iron, BRASS ROD on head and foot boards, extra strong spindles; made in 4 ft. 6 in. widths only—a value beyond the power of competition.

### Velour Couches.



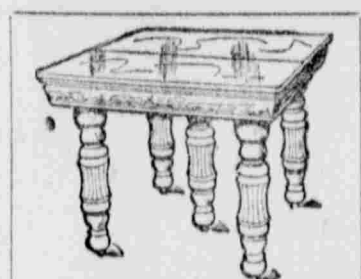
Very handsome pattern, reliably constructed; frame made of best seasoned oak, artistically carved. The cushions are upholstered in beautiful shades of velour; the springs are perfectly reliable, from head to foot this couch will equal the \$22.50 ones shown elsewhere....

### Dressers.



Dressers in rich, solid oak finish, well constructed throughout; pretty oval shaped mirror, our Matchless Price.

### Extension Tables.



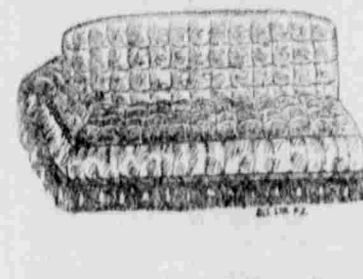
Expert buyers realize in OUR offerings MATCHLESS OPPORTUNITIES—we've a habit of firmly linking an extremely high quality to an exceptionally low price. For example—This select Oak Extension Table, six feet long when extended, large pillar legs....

### Mantel Beds.



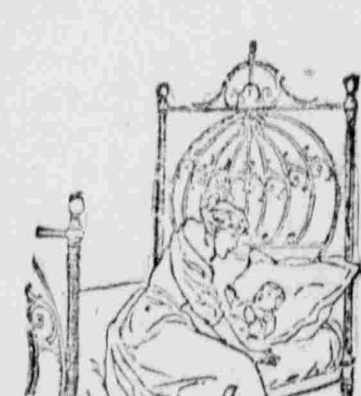
Rich oak finished Mantel Bed, inner compartment fitted with durable springs, front prettily designed; an honest \$20 value; our special price....

### Davenport.



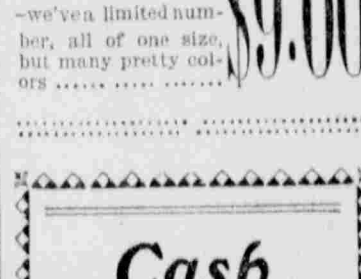
A value far beyond the ordinary—This very handsome Davenport, rich mahogany finished frames, highly polished, upholstered on a bed of non-sagable springs and covered with finest grade of French velour—equal to any \$50 Davenport shown....

### Iron Beds.



The scroll work on both head and foot boards of this MALLEABLE IRON BED is artistically arranged—the construction is perfect in every detail—we've a limited number, all of one size, but many pretty colors....

### Cash or Credit.



51 to 57 EAST FIRST SOUTH STREET.

## P. W. Madsen's Furniture and Carpet Store.

51 to 57 EAST FIRST SOUTH STREET.

MRS. EDNA SCOTT-BOWEN, Secretary of The Shakespeare Literary Club, CHICAGO, ILLS.



449 Cleveland Ave., CHICAGO, ILL., April 9, 1902.

Five years ago when my first child was born it nearly cost me my life. I had four doctors and they used their best skill to save me. To be sure I did not die but my life was worth little for my health was broken. Inflammation and ulceration sapped my strength and robbed me of life's happiness. I was in despair when fortunately one of your Birthday Almanacs fell into my hands. It gave me new hope for I thought: "Why cannot Wine of Cardui do for me what it has done for others?" I began taking it at once and speedily improved. Within two months I was like a new being. My troubles had disappeared. I felt no pains any longer where before every bone had ached and every spot felt sore. Last year I was blessed with a little daughter. I took Wine of Cardui nearly four months before she came and felt well repaid. My parturition was easy and almost painless. I am the happy mother of two children, enjoy perfect health and give the credit to your great medicine.

Edna Scott-Bowen

No matter how strong a woman is she needs reinforcement at the critical period of childbirth. Wine of Cardui is the best preparation for this anticipated shock and strain to a woman's system. Nothing enables a mother to so quickly regain her health after baby comes as this remarkable tonic taken two or three times a day. Wine of Cardui is good for every woman of every age. It stops the drains and builds up the womanly organs and makes the functions healthy and regular. Periodical suffering and bearing down pains give way before this astonishing tonic. No woman can afford to be without this successful remedy in her home when the Wine of Cardui treatment means so much to her physical welfare. No one could praise any medicine higher than Mrs. Edna Scott-Bowen recommends Wine of Cardui. This Wine cured her of terrible female suffering which was becoming more and more unbearable as doctor after doctor failed to bring relief. Her life seemed hardly worth the living but she finally tried Wine of Cardui and secured relief. Over 1,000,000 suffering women now cured can bear this same testimony. Wine of Cardui will cure you just as it cured Mrs. Edna Scott-Bowen. Go to your druggist today and buy a \$1.00 bottle. Take it in the privacy of your room and the relief it always brings will be yours. This is the same offer we made to Mrs. Scott-Bowen months ago. We make it to you now.

## WINE of CARDUI

WILLIAMS BROTHERS PHONE 921. OFFICE 101 MAIN ST. COAL CO.

## Utah, the Inland Empire.

A Unique Publication, of Unusual Interest, Containing Articles by Utah's Best Writers, Including Founding an Empire. A Historical Narrative of the early struggles of Utah's Pioneers, by Bishop O. F. Whitney. The City of the Saints. Being a recital of readable facts descriptive of the Salt Lake City of today. Nature's Treasure Houses. A bright, crisp story in which Utah's famous mines are fully described. Life On the Range. Depicted by the pen of one familiar with the rodero. Among the many attractive features will be biographies of some of Utah's Prominent Men. Descriptive stories of the Industrial, Mining and Commercial development of this great commonwealth, with individual instances of marked success attained. And many other True Tales of peculiar fascination.

Now in Preparation by The Deseret News.

WHILE IN TO CONFERENCE COME IN AND SEE US. We will buy you HAY, GRAIN, POTATOES, BUTTER, EGGS and CHEESE, and day you the highest cash prices for them. RAY & SONS, 9-11-13 So. 3rd West, Opp. U. S. L. depo., south

BONDS FURNISHED. All kinds of court and official, personal surety for employers, contractors, corporation officers, trustees and administrators; also burglary insurance written by United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co., of Baltimore, Md. The WILSON-SHERMAN, CO. Gen'l Agents, 52 West Second South Street, WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS.