

TURKISH DINNERS.

"A Turkish dinner," says a writer, "usually consists of only two dishes; but each dish is composed of a variety of ingredients, such as meat, poultry, fish, etc. From these dishes the guests are helped with spoons of black horn. The handles of the spoon used at dinner, at which myself and friends were present, were set with diamonds. The dessert, which was served on dishes of silver, beautifully wrought, consisted of peaches, oranges, fresh figs, almonds, and a variety of exquisite sweetmeats. Coffee was served in cups of costly porcelain, and cruet of wrought gold contained liquors. Those placed before the Princess were set with diamonds and fine pearls. The napkins were of a fabric resembling cambric, extremely fine, and so silky that its surface, reflected by the radiant lights of the lamps, presented the effect of silver tissue. There was one Turkish custom which was calculated in spite of all the pleasant impressions which we were treated. Every vessel out of which the Christians, or, as we are called, infidels, have eaten or drank, is condemned as impure, and is set aside, never again to be used by Mahomedans. Accordingly, we were requested to carry with us the plates, cups, etc., which we had used at dinner. We could not take umbrage at this little affront, concealed as it was under a graceful veil of generosity. We accepted the offering, which, independently of their intrinsic value, were objects of curiosity; and we promised to preserve them as memorials of our delighted visit."

AN OLD ABUSE REVIVED.

We had thought that if the habit of tight lacing had become obsolete, the day had at least gone by when any sane person would attempt to defend the practice, much less to do so in print. But a correspondent of the *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* gives her experience as a "tight lacer" in reducing the size of her waist from twenty-three inches to fourteen. The lady probably did not know that in so doing she shortened a fool's life a year for every inch taken from the waist circumference. Still less did she know (to her far more appalling fact) that for every inch thus lost she gained a pimple on her face, perchance on her nose, and that with her waste of waist-development, she lost not only the roses from her cheeks but drove the lily from her forehead and planted a rubicund cluster of flaming flowerets on her brow and nose. Here is the lady's account of her experience during her achievement of a short life and a sorry one:

"I went and ordered a pair of stays, made very strong and filled with stiff bone, measuring only fourteen inches around the waist. These, with the assistance of my maid, I put on, and managed the first day to lace my waist in to eighteen inches. At night I slept in my corset without loosening the waist in the least. The next day my maid got my waist to seventeen inches, and so on, an inch smaller every day, until she got them to meet. I wore them regularly without ever taking them off, having tightened them a fresh every day, as the laces might stretch a little. For the first few days the pain was very great, but as soon as the stays were laced close, and I had worn them so for a few days, I began to care nothing about it, and in a month or so I would not have taken them off on any account, for I quite enjoyed the sensation.—N. Y. Commercial."

RINGING THE CHANGES IN CENTRAL ASIA.—M. Vambéry tells a story in his "Sketches of Central Asia," which shows that rogues' nature is much the same everywhere: "In Teheran, a Hadji, lately arrived from Central Asia, told me with tears in his eyes the following story: 'As,' said he, 'I had heard much in Meshed of the frequent robberies that occurred on the road to Teheran, I and my companion were anxious to know what would be the best way to conceal our little capital, which was to defray our expenses to the holy grave of the Prophet. This money was the savings of five hard years, and thou knowest how difficult it is to travel without money in this land of heretics. Next to us in the caravan at Meshed there lodged a pious Isahan (sheikh) from Cashmere; to him we communicated our fears, and were delighted when he offered, by means of a certain form of prayer, to secure our money against all attacks of robbers. He invited us to follow him to the mosque of Iman Rida; there he bade us perform the usual ablutions. We then placed our money in his lap, and after he had breathed on it several times he put it with his own hand into our purses, wrapped them up in seven sheets of paper, and then strictly enjoined us not to open them till on our arrival at Teheran, we had performed our devotions three times in the mosque. It is now six weeks since we left Meshed, and imagine our fright when, after the third prayer, we opened our purses and found in them, instead of dead deucats, nothing but heavy reddish sand.' The poor fellows uttered bitter complaints, and seemed to have almost lost their wits. The cunning rogue from Cashmere had, while pronouncing the blessing, changed the money without being perceived by the simple Tartars, who continued their journey to Teheran in the perfect persuasion of the efficacy of the ceremony—a persuasion which they now found had cost them dear."

A LETTER from Bouvignes (Belgium) to the *Union de Charleroi*, mentions an interesting circumstance. M. Luthi, a provincial architect, was employed by the Government to execute some work at the ruins of the Castle of Crève-Cœur, rendered necessary in consequence of the recent giving way of the wall and masonry. In the course of the work he discovered some mines, placed there no doubt by the troops of Henry II. of France, when under the command of the Duke de Nevers, who besieged the town on the 7th July, 1554. The canyons bags containing the gunpowder are not quite decayed, and the pieces of wood laid around them are almost intact. The supposition is that the intention was to blow up a portion of one of the conical towers, which is still standing, and from the top of which, as the story runs, the three lads of Crève-Cœur threw themselves into the Mous.

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Palm Soap.....25 to 27 "

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Cattle Soap.....40 to 50 "

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Fancy Perfumed Soap.....\$1.75 to \$2.00 p. doz.

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IRONWARE and Tinners' Supplies. Having recently reduced the prices of all articles of our OWN MANUFACTURE, we believe Store and householders will find it to their interest to send for Catalogue and Price List, and examine our prices before purchasing elsewhere.

Address: CHARTER OAK STOVES, Excelsior Manufacturing Co., ST. LOUIS, Missouri.

SOLD by Stove Dealers generally.

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BUCK & WRIGHT AHEAD.

AS MAY be seen by the following article, which we copy from the New Orleans Times of 15th inst., Buck & Wright have borne off the highest premium in the stove line at the New Orleans Fair. Six entries were made with "Buck's" "Brilliant," away ahead of the heap.

The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock, before a largely increased crowd over the day preceding. The most good humor seemed to prevail, both among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old P. R. principle of "may the best stove win." Promptly to the time the committee appeared on the judges' stand, surrounded by a cheering throng of excitement and responsibility. The entries were the same as at the previous trial, and the judges had not been changed.

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lights up. Norton's Burnace, run by Mr. Wood Perry, led off in smoke, amid the cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Do it, old one." Charter Oak followed, and the rest gave way immediately after. In four minutes, just as the clock struck one, the trial was over. All allowed that the "Brilliant" had started as the best stove already.

Then came the tug; the cooks' countenances glowed like the stove, a personal rivalry between the opening and shutting doors resounded over the arena. Stoves were patted, coaxed and petted as though they were human beings. All seemed confident of winning, and the trial was a scene of confusion and excitement.

At twenty minutes past one "Charter Oak" threw open its throttle valves and announced "shut up" and "keeping dark." At the time for the second trial, the "Brilliant" was still in the lead, and without the arena. At last Perry's Burnace followed into the arena, and the trial was on. In 20 minutes, Norton's next, in 30 then Charter Oak in 40, then Godbe's. The grand result of the trial was as follows:

Norton's Burnace, E. Wood Perry, brand, weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 lbs 3 oz.

Good Samaritan, brand, weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 lbs 3 oz.

Buck's Brilliant, Buck & Wright, brand, weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 lbs 3 oz.

At the conclusion of the trial, the Burnace was taken charge of by the Awarding Committee and locked up for an hour, as the expiration of their duty, and the good Samaritan awarded the best wood stove to Buck & Wright, of St. Louis, Campman & Co.—New Orleans Times, Jan. 15, 1905.

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