

den, they cannot become heirs to the name and fortune, except by some special decree.

You see that the Mohammedan women do not enjoy so many liberties as the American women, and I need not say that that immense pleasure indulged in by many ladies, to go shopping as they say and send the bill at the office of their husband, is unknown here since the "ladies of a harem are never allowed to go out except in boxes hermetically closed and almost air-tight and that besides they are allowed to enjoy only the company of a husband who is often brutal, or of his satellites called eunuchs, who watch over the virtue of the women confided to their care.

Sidi-Ben-Ahmet, my friend, believes in this very strongly. He is imbued with this principle that women are not equal to men and as he is very rich himself, he has many wives and concubines whom he treats with kindness, but whom he believes his inferiors in all respects. He believes that a woman is the slave of her husband, and that if he treats her with kindness it is all she can expect. He believes that after death Mohammed, the prophet of prophets, shall, with his mighty hand, catch him by the hair and pull him into Paradise, where amidst all pleasures, he shall behold in his arms all his different wives for the eternal ages to come! I suppose that this must be why, when a Rajah, dies in India—which, although not Mohammedan, is governed by many principles similar to the religion of the prophet—they burn to death all his wives, probably not to make the dear old boy wait too long for them, because I feel satisfied that heaven would prove to be quite monotonous in spite of its landscapes and unpalatable thrones of gold for a Mohammedan to sit alone without having some women companions.

The Jewish women are very numerous, but are not as beautiful as the "Mauresques." The feeling just now seems to be against the Jews, not only in France but also in the colonies. There is every day of considerable amount of literature devoted to the Semitic or the anti-Semitic movement and according to their political position the papers keep on, fighting against each other, and the old story of Captain Dreyfus is daily revived, although all these arguments have never brought any relief to the poor prisoner.

By this time the eloquent pleadings of my stomach tell me to have something to eat and Sidi-Ben-Ahmet proposes that we shall go in an Arabian restaurant, and upon my having accepted his proposition we enter a place that looks very much like some of our Chinatown restaurants in San Francisco. The only thing is—and it is quite an essential one, that here they do not smoke opium, nevertheless, since it is a necessity for men to smoke, they use the strongest kind of tobacco, in a special style of water-pipes called "Chibouck." Ben-Ahmet, who knows that I am not very conversant with the Arabian tongue, is kind enough to order for me and for himself, what we shall eat. First it is a cup of coffee, prepared by a special process, which consists of boiling together the coffee and the water in order that it may become thick as cream. They serve this "Cafe Arabe" in tiny cups, and it is delicious, but it would be impossible to drink much of this mixture, because it is exceedingly strong. After having brought our coffee, an Arabian, whose garments are of doubtful cleanliness, places before Ben-Ahmet and myself a dish containing something that I had never seen before upon a table, but I am so hungry that I imitate my friend, and without trying to find out what is on the plate, perhaps even fearing to

find it out, I boldly begin my meal, dipping in pepper and salt those suspicious looking morsels just as I would have done radishes on an American table, and I am compelled to confess that I was growing quite fond of them and "in petto" was thinking of which way would be the best to know what I was eating without showing my ignorance, when Sidi-Ben-Ahmet, abruptly asking me what I thought of those grass-hoppers, and if we had the same qualities and species in America, literally flabbergasted me; so much indeed was I astounded that I feel satisfied I must have grown pale in the face and a cold chill passed down my back. The fact is that I had eaten "locusts" with pepper and salt, and although Sidi-Ben-Ahmet says that they are a fine appetizer and that he feels better now that he has eaten a half-dozen raw; I, myself, in spite of these assertions, feel very uncomfortable and my appetite is gone. I have inquired from my friend, how that habit of eating locusts had come to exist, but he did not seem to understand my inquiry, because the eating of those insects was so natural a thing to him that he could not have believed in my disgust; the only thing he said was that these beetles grow in Algeria to an enormous size and are so very numerous that they often destroy the crops; and this leads me to that conclusion, that the Arabians wishing to destroy them decided to eat them. I don't know if they can them to preserve them for winter, but if I had an advice to give them, it would be to start a canning company, both as an economic process for living cheaply during winter.

In speaking of locusts, I recollect a short story which has happened to a French translator of Fenimore Cooper's novels. I forget, or rather I never knew which one of the series was being translated by that learned Frenchman, but the fact is this no matter in what book it is:

"The rider alighted to the ground and tied his horse to a locust while he took his dinner."

Well, when the French translator arrived at the word "locust" he looked in the dictionary and taking the first acception wrote in his French version: "Il attaché son cheval a une sauterelle" which means, "he tied his horse to a grasshopper."

If the gentleman had looked a little further he would have easily detected that locust tree was meant, but the funniest part of it is, that the translator after having committed such an unpardonable error, felt the necessity of explaining to the public in a foot note what a locust was and he wrote thus: "In America, locusts grow to such a large size that they use them as hitching posts in front of the houses."

If we were wise enough to find it out we would see that many mistakes of translation have been made since the world was made and perhaps, the Bible itself, which we quote from, has been undergoing many changes; not only in form but also in sense.

JULES CAMBON.

#### OPINIONS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL BISHOP.

Attorney General Bishop has submitted the following to Hon. John R. Park, State superintendent of public instruction:

Dear Sir—In your favor of August 6th, you ask to be advised upon the following:

First—When a district school board organizes, should it be for one year or may it be for three years, or is it necessary to re-organize after each annual election?

Second—May the bond given, as trustee,

be made the bond of the treasurer in case the board approves the same?

Answering your first question, I beg to say that, under the law, the board consists of three persons only. Originally, one is elected for three years; one for two years, and one for one year. Thereafter, one is elected each year to hold office for three years.

In the matter of organization, the trustees are required to appoint one of their number chairman; another, clerk, and another, treasurer. Said trustees, when thus organized, shall constitute the district school board.

If the organization was for a longer time than one year, the member whose term is to run for only one year would not be eligible to be elected; at least, he could not be elected for a longer time than that for which his term would extend. This would also be true of the one whose term was for two years. Under the law, the personnel of the board must, necessarily, change each year, as there is always an outgoing old member and an incoming new member, and, while there is no express provision in the law covering this question, the conditions above noted would seem to suggest that the Legislature intended a re-organization of the board each year.

As to your second inquiry, I am of opinion that the approval of the trustees of a bond given by one of their number, as trustee, would not constitute it a bond as treasurer of the board. I think that the better and safer practice would be to require a new bond of the treasurer of the board.

This opinion was given to Secretary of State Hammond:

Dear Sir—I have your favor of August 10th, wherein you ask for my opinion upon the following:

"The Hoskaninni Co., a corporation organized under the laws of West Virginia, on the 24th day of March, 1898, has applied for admission to do business within this State. This is a corporation admitted to be organized for the purpose of developing property in this State. That part of the articles of incorporation relating to the capital stock, is as follows: 'And for the purpose of forming such corporation we have subscribed the sum of \$500 to the capital thereof and have paid in on said subscription the sum of \$50 and desire the privilege of increasing the said capital by the sale of additional shares from time to time to \$300,000 in all and provides, further, that the capital so subscribed is divided into shares of \$100 each and the capital to be hereafter sold is to be divided into shares of the like amount. I have held that the capital stock is \$300,000 for the reason that, without filing any amendment to their articles, the incorporators may sell stock to that amount.'"

Replying to the foregoing, I beg to say that I note your reasoning and conclusion and concur in both.

#### SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The collection of meteorites in the Paris natural history museum represent 463 distinct fells. An interesting descriptive catalogue of this great collection has just been published.

Coronium, known hypothetically as a constituent of the sun, has been discovered by Prof. Nasini, of Padua, in volcanic emissions. It is a gas apparently much lighter than hydrogen.

The fertilizing effect of gypsum has been recognized, though never understood, but it is surprising to learn, as we do through the New Mexico agricultural experiment station, that nearly pure gypsum will nourish plants even