DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, - - - - July 15, 1868.

THE FEMALE FOOT.

PROBABLE ORIGIN OF THE STORY OF CINDERELLA.

The female foot has in all ages been the theme of the poet, the subject of the painter and the sculptor, and the admiration of men of genius. The smallness of the foot is regarded as a mark of beauty and nobility among some of the Oriental nations, and the Chinese carry this idea to such an extent that the feet of the ladies of rank are compressed within a compass so small that they are almost useless and greatly impede locomotion.

The old English poet' in describing a beautiful lady, speaks of her pedal extremities in flattering terms:

"Her little feet beneath her petticoat
Like little mice peeped in and out.

The theatrical ballad advises that

"If your foot is pretty show it,"

and this advice is followed by many of our belles in crossing the streets or skating on the Rink.

But it is not our present design to write an essay on feminine feet, but merely to introduce a translation from a French author, relating a historical event which probably gave rise to the romantic story of "Cinderella and the Little Glass Slipper," which every one has seen represented on the stage. The translation is by an accomplished French scholar of the legal profession, and whether the circumstances be historically true or not, it is curious and interesting. We see no reason why it may not be a literal fact, as it is claimed to be by the French historian.

In the seventh volume of "*Causes celebres et interessanter, avec les jugemens quales ont decides,*" published at Paris in 1750' there is a statement illustrative of the subject matter under discussion, which has so much the appearance of being the foundation of the story of "Cinderella and the Glass Slipper," that we are induced to translate the author:

The fortune of Rhopode, a celebrated Courtesan, presents a similiar event; this is her history, for which Pliny is our warrant:

She was distinguished, among others of her sex, by the smallest and most beautiful feet. Such perfection has great charms, inasmuch as two nations, the Spanish and Chinese, hold it to be one of the greatest attractions of women. This foot, so small and beautiful, enjoyed the advantage of pertaining to beauty at once delicate, regular, and surpassingly graceful; her favors would have been beyond price, had she not taken a fancy to barter them. The wealth derived from this source was such that she was enabled to build one of the finest and most sumptuous pyramids of Egypt. On one occasion, when she was bathing in the river, she was much astonished at seeing an eagle stoop from his flight and seize one of her shoes. The eagle bore it off to the distance of several leagues, and dropped it into the lap of Psaminiticus, King of Egypt, who was at the time administering justice in an open place. The King admired a shoe which could have been made for none other than a charming foot. He at once concluded that the gods had expressly made it for the woman who was to share his throne, and without having been tried on her foot, it had been sent to him as a command to seek her out. He caused the most beautiful women of his kingdom to be assembled; satisfied in his own mind that such a shoe could not have been made for an ugly woman. Throughout the entire kingdom of Egypt there were scarcely one hundred women who, on account of distinguished beauty, deserved to be presented to the King. As a matter of course Rhodope was among the number. We are dazzled at the sight of these rare beauties; at first they cause us to lower our eyes, but soon we raise them again to admire, and again and again we go through this manœuvre; such is the constant movement of our look. Those beautiful women, assembled before the king to try on the shoe it may well be imagined, looked at each other with uneasy jealousy. It is needless to say that the toilet of each was arranged with a view to her peculiar attraction.

"The King unwilling to trust to anyone, determined to try the shoe on the women's feet himself; he caused them all to be seated, and then got down on his knees. A king kneeling before beauty is one of the most natural positions. Many feet were presented which the shoe would not fit. There could be no spectacle presented so singular and so ravishing as that assemblage of exquisite beauties, each of whom were endowed with a peculiar grace. At last the happy foot was found; it was that of Rhodope. She had hidden with great care the denouement of an adventure, which of course she had foreseen; she wanted a flashing triumph over her rivals.

A WORD IN BEHALF OF CHILDREN.—Man alive, don't whip that boy! Take your inhuman rod and burn it ere you mangle the tender flesh of your own offspring. A boy of ten years of age tied up, his father scourging him, unmindful of his pitiful shrieks! Oh, slavery! Oh, slavery! your horrors pale before a sight like this. Think you God gave that child nerves so numerous that a needle-point cannot be put down without touching one, only to make his back more susceptible to your lash? You say that this is the third time he has disobeyed in the same thing. Oh, long-suffering incalculable! "Well," you say, "what am I to do? am I to allow him to go on disobeying me?" Don't allow your children to disobey you in little things when they are small; and if you have winked at naughtiness when your child was four, petted foibles when he was five or six, until he seems quite unmanageable without the lash, and that well laid on, just go right back to the root of the evil, and their labour night and day until you have mastered it yourself. It is yourself that is wrong.

Let me ask you how many kind and loving words your boy receives during the day from you? Do you praise him when he does right? Do you soothe him when he is irritated? Are you grieved, or angry, when he disobeys you? How much pleasure does your boy enjoy at home? I'll tell you how your boy would define his home:—The place where he gets a full stomach and sore back; and I can tell you that in after years, as well as at present, he will think more of the "sore back" than the "full stomach." All the influence you use in bringing up your child is brute force. If he does wrong, you whip him; if he does wrong again, whip him harder. I know a man who had a pair of poor horses, which fell down in the furrows, and would not get up for the whip; but the man would go before them with corn, and they would immediately get up and try it again. Thus the man continued to do until he succeeded in getting his field ploughed. Now what I wish is that you would use as much reason with your child as the man did with his horses. Try encouragement; if for no other reason, just to relieve your tired arm. Try to force into your heart enough of the milk of human kindness to love your child, and the task will be easy. Crowd from your overwrought brain some of your money-making schemes, and make room for a little consideration of your child's daily needs. Don't get into a good humor and buy him a drum, and then worry the life out of him because he makes a noise with it. Guide and direct him. Tell him when he has done his work he can take his drum and go into the yard and play. Don't call him in when he has been out five minutes to do something else. In fact, love him, bear with him, encourage him, take interest in in what interests him, speak kindly; and, mark me, your son will be a blessing to your old age!—*Senior.*

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