

ANTONY'S BREAKFAST TO CLEOPATRA.

After having partaken of Cleopatra's breakfast, Mark Antony determined to do the same thing the next day. After several days of gastronomic meditations, not having found what he was looking for, he summoned his cook to his presence, and told him that if he could get up a dainty breakfast for a lady, which should be composed of as few and as small dishes as possible, and, at the same time, be most costly, he would reward him accordingly. Several weeks after the cook entered Mark Antony's study, and told him that he was ready to serve the dainty breakfast asked of him, and that it was composed of one olive only. At the appointed hour the cook entered the dining-room, followed by 100 men carrying the olive (in its artificial envelope) on their shoulders. They deposited it on a table made for the occasion, and 50 carvers were set to work on it. After several hours of hard work, the triumphant cook placed the olive before the Queen, who looked at it with amazement, still with perfect delight. The olive had been prepared in the following way: After having been stoned, it was stuffed with a rich custard then put inside of a boned canary, which was used to stuff an ortolan. The latter was placed inside of a boned ortolan, which was used to stuff a thrush, which thrush stuffed a boned lark, a boned snipe was stuffed with the lark and placed inside of a robin, which was used to stuff a plover, and which latter bird filled a quail, which was then placed inside of a pigeon. The pigeon filled a woodcock, the woodcock a partridge, the latter a grouse, the grouse a pheasant, the pheasant a chicken, the chicken a guinea-fowl, which was placed inside of a goose, the goose filled a turkey, the turkey a swan, the latter an ostrich, which was used to stuff a sheep, the sheep a calf, the calf an antelope, the latter a pig, the pig a deer, the deer a bear, the bear a lion, the lion an elk, the elk an ox, the ox a hippopotamus, the latter an elephant. The olive was then roasted in its envelope, which envelope was thrown away and the olive only served. —Palmer.

Hon. Ellis Roberts, editor of the Utica (N. Y.) Herald, who has recently returned from a visit to Europe, gives the following graphic description of Venice:

You enter Venice with bated breath. Away to the left are the spurs of the Alps. You have passed through orchards and vineyards, rustling with the fig and the olive, the nectarine and the plum, the pear and the grape. You have crossed fields, every blade of whose soil is historic. You turn from all as you enter upon the bridge of more than two hundred arches, crossing the large lagoon which divides the main land of Italy from the object of your dreams. Your eyes and your ears and your heart are busy. A confused mass of roofs, of towers, just rising out of the water; the distant peal of bells from one of the many churches; watermen in strange boats moving lazily about, mingle in a marvelous melody of sight and sound; then you pass through the inevitable appearance of a railway station; you try your dubious French upon an Italian porter; two or three assistants assail your baggage; you find yourself led to the water's brink, and you are seated in a gondola on the Grand Canal of Venice.

This water is that of the Adriatic. This earth is islands, upon which, hardly emerging from the sea, refugees, as early as 421, hid themselves from the incursions of the northern hordes. To make themselves homes they drove down poles into the marshy soil; the narrow channels leading from the ocean they gradually walled and fashioned into canals; their situation educated them to seafaring. The islands constituted natural divisions, and the inhabitants of each made and executed their own laws. Three-score republics were weak for assault or defense against external foes. They chose a leader—a doge—and retained their local self-government. The United Republic of Venice arose. The triumph of 1300 years of freedom are recorded in these proud walls, these marbles speak to them. This canvas gives to them an immortality forever new. The first Napoleon aroused the indignation of every scholar, of every lover of the fit and the worthy, when he refused to recognize the neutrality of the Republic, and let loose his eagles against it in its decrepitude, crushing out the remnant of its independence. When on May 12, 1807, he imposed a new constitution upon Venice, after 1,376 years of as proud a record as history furnishes for so small a territory, and so limited a population, the Venetian Republic perished. The Frenchman, the Italian and the Austrian, have in turn dominated over her and accelerated her decadence. Now, as an appendage of the crown of Victor Emmanuel, the rare, quaint city, lies listless and mute upon her islands, hardly alive, but like some mummy preserved by precious gums and spices, in whose skeleton and whose wrappings we may learn something of what she was in the lustiness of her beauty and prowess.

SCIENCE.

Artificial ebony, now used to a considerable extent in Europe, is said to be prepared by taking sixty parts of seaweed charcoal, obtained by treating the seaweed for two hours in dilute sulphuric acid; then drying and grinding it, and adding to it ten parts of liquid glue, five parts gutta-percha, and two and a half parts of india-rubber, the last two dissolved in naphtha; then adding ten parts of coal-tar, five parts pulverized sulphur, two parts pulverized alum, and five parts of powdered resin, and heating the mixture to about 300 deg. Fahr. We thus obtain, after the mass has become cold, a material which in color, hardness, and capability of taking a polish, is equal in every respect to ebony, and much cheaper.

An excellent indelible ink may be prepared by rubbing up one drachm of aniline black with a mixture of sixty drops of concentrated hydro-chloric acid and one and a half ounces of alcohol. The resulting deep blue liquid is then to be diluted with a hot solution of one and a half drachms of gum-arabic in six ounces of water. This ink does not corrode a steel pen, and is effected neither by concentrated mineral acids nor by strong lye. If the aniline black solution be diluted with one and a half

ounces of shellac, dissolved in six ounces of alcohol, instead of with the gum water, an aniline black is obtained, which, after being applied to wood, brass, or leather, is remarkable for its extraordinary deep black color.

A discovery has been made by M. Sallet somewhat interesting, in these days to gas examiners and makers. If any solid body be pressed upon the nearly colorless flame of pure hydrogen gas, the flame is seen to be suddenly colored blue. The cause of this has never before been explained by chemists, but M. Sallet tells us that it is caused by the vapor of sulphur in the gas. As the Hydrogen is supposed to be pure, the question arises, whence comes the sulphur? According to our author, it comes from the reduction of sulphates always in suspension in the air and more particularly from sulphate of sodium. "Soda salts," we know, are everywhere present in the atmosphere.

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