

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, September 5, 1865.

A SKETCH OF BOMBAY-STREET SCENES.

"Carleton," the lively correspondent of the Boston Journal, is writing some interesting letters from India. We quote below from one of them:

"Would that the farmers of New England, who, about these days, are driving their teams afield, could see how the Hindoos manage their oxen. Think of a pair of lean, lank kine, with horns eighteen inches long, sticking straight up in the air, with a big hump on the back—over the shoulders a straight piece of round wood—a limb of a tree six inches in diameter for a yoke, four pins, each about ten inches long, driven through the yoke to keep it in place on the necks of the animals; ropes instead of bows—not lashed to the horns but tied around the necks; a cord in the nostrils of each ox, with reins attached; a two wheeled cart, with four seats, the driver sitting in front, bare-headed, bare-armed, bare-footed, bare-legged, barely dressed in every respect—one bit of rag about the loins; three Hindoo passengers, as bare of clothing as himself, the oxen upon the trot or canter, the dusky Jehu handling the reins adroitly, turning sharp corners, picking his way through the crowd as easily and quickly as the hackmen of your city can thread their course on Washington street.

The peninsula is wider here, and we soon reached the suburbs, where the Europeans and Parsees and the rich native merchants live. We find broad avenues, as smooth as the sea beach, shaded by tropical trees in great variety. We pass stately palaces surrounded by spacious gardens. We look up the long graveled walks and behold flowers of every hue, exotics of the temperate zone mingled with the flora of the tropics—oleandras, magnolias, acacias, oranges and lemons, honeysuckles, verbenas, roses, azalias, petunias, tiger lilies—the entire flora of our green-houses blooming in the open air; vines and creepers, elemotic and jessamine climbing the walls, over-running summer-houses, trees, wholly unlike those which we are accustomed to see—no elms, no maples, or giant oaks; but the tall and slender palm, the palmyra, the cocoanut with their green plumes gracefully moving in the breeze, the banyan, forest in itself, sending its new trunks down into the generous earth and spreading its branches far and wide thickly throwing out its leaves, making a delightful shade; the India rubber tree, the teak, the fig and mango. The Parsee as far as in him lies, makes his earthly home a paradise. His palace is large and lofty. He has wide halls, deep verandas and passage ways running in all directions, so that, in the breeze come from the sea or the mountains, from the north or the south, it may sweep through his hall. The Parsees are the Yankees of the East—the business men who know the knack of making money. In another letter I shall have something more to say about them. They surpass the English in the elegance of their residences. Getting beyond the palaces and villas we come to the plains, reaching northward and eastward, bounded in the dim distance by mountains.

In approaching the city from the sea, or looking down upon it from the hills, we see few spires, towers and domes of churches, temples or public buildings, but a long reach of tiled roofs, wide streets, open lots, patches of green foliage, with but few objects to attract special attention.

The people were just rising—hundreds from the ground in front of their shops—men, women and children, where they had made their beds for the night. Some were still asleep, and I came near disturbing the slumbers of a young man as I turned the corner, by falling headlong over him. It does not take a Hindoo long to dress, especially when his only garment is a strip of cloth around the loins. The children like those in many American homes, were up bright and early making mud pies. I noticed that they were not dressed quite well enough to make the appearance of a Sunday school. In the country where the father and mother make a strip of cloth the size of a dish wiper serve for a full dress, it is not in the nature of things that their offspring should appear in coat, trousers and pants, or crinoline, and trails like those which some young ladies of Boston use for sweeping the streets. The costumes of the maidens of the West—especially the ball-room dresses—have longer skirts and perhaps not quite so low in the neck, as the costumes worn by their sisters of India; but in the matter of jewelry the dark-skinned ladies of this country can beat them all hollow.

Take a look at this black haired creature fondling a little ebony imp, the likeness of herself, in a doorway as we pass, a gold chain about her neck, gold charms the size of a ten dollar gold piece dangling from it, three silver bracelets on each wrist, an armlet of silver on each arm above the elbow, so many rings on her fingers that you cannot count them, anklets, huge and massive, upon each ankle, toelets of the same metal on her great toes; six gold rings with little bells attached in each ear; a gold brooch with a long pin thrust through the left nostril! Can any fair maiden in America exhibit so much jewelry!

See how the fond mother has lavished her fortune, regardless of expense, upon the darling in her arms—rings on her toes, on its ankles, a silver chain clasping each of its chubby legs above the knee, a larger chain of elaborate workmanship, girding the loins, with charms and little silver bells attached, rings on its fingers, bracelets on its arms, another chain clasping the neck, rings in its ears, a jewel in its nose! Quite a display for a young girl who has not got round to her first anniversary birthday.

The question is solved as to what becomes of the silver. India absorbs it. A love of jewelry is characteristic of men as well as women in India. The men wear bracelets and nose-rings. The population of the country is nearly one hundred and ninety millions, and it may be set down that each individual has upon an average four or five rings, bracelets or charms, usually of silver. There are at least ten hundred million ornaments among the natives, but no estimate can be made of their value. Through all ages India has swallowed up silver, and the absorption is as great to-day as ever. The coin of the country is wholly silver—rupees or half dollars. The native does not like a gold currency. Attempts have been made to introduce it, but without success.

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