

# DESEBET EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, October 27, 1898.

## DR. BELLOW'S UPON TURKISH WOMEN.

Crossing the ferry we found at least five hundred persons of all nations and conditions packed into the boat as close as they could sit or stand. An after portion was screened off for women, and as it was a festival, they were dressed out in fresh "Great Balm" costumes, every woman in a different role. In spite of their seclusion and walls there was no trouble in seeing them or their faces. Their walls were of very transparent muslin, with a hand round the forehead met in theory by a chin-piece in folds which should cover all but the eyes. But the opening was generally left wide enough for a line pair of eyes and a well-defined nose to show themselves, while the pallid delicacy of the Turkish woman's complexion, and her delicate mouth and chin, were not at all injuriously hid by her lace. These Turkish ladies—for here and elsewhere, especially in the bazaars, we saw hundreds or thousands of them, very different from the common women we had seen in Cairo and Damascus—were uniformly dressed with simple elegance, in apparently fresh outfits in honor of the chief Moslem festival—their Christmas, I suppose. They are draped rather than dressed, their gown being a loose, flowing robe, over which a mantle still more loosely hangs, robe and mantle uniformly of the same color, and the color unmixed. The feet in walking showed very distinctly below the trousers, and often stockings were short like men's. French boots are creeping in, but the majority wore yellow slippers, setting close to the feet, with an over-shoe out of which they slip their feet on going into the mosque or house. We saw women in the Turkish mosques, not on the main floors, but down stairs as well as up in the galleries. The colors worn are infinitely varied in shade, and, I think, finer than we see in Europe. The stuffs were fine merino cloths, or silk and satin. There was an appearance of perfect neatness about most of the women. They were, as a rule, undeniably handsome in features, but with a certain tendency to corpulency. Their hands and feet were too small and delicate, although they do not seem to value smallness of foot. I heard a very unamiable critic say their complexions reminded him too uniformly of cold boiled chicken to be agreeable. There certainly is an almost deadly paleness, which indicates want of blood and health, I recollect no color in any Turkish cheek, man or woman. I suspect the Turkish cuisine is one of sops and sweetmeats. The most conspicuous thing on sale in the restaurants are great sheets of blanc-mange, which is eaten with milk and sugar, or with a syrup of a molasses color, or a mess of honey and flour, making a kind of preserves. In appearance just like our frozen pudding. Then nuts and raisins are prodigiously popular. Chops, substantial soups, joints, anything on which a westerner could support nature, one never sees in a Turkish bazaar. Sipping on cereals, fruit and a light diet, the Turkish women show it in a livid complexion, which is evidently the mode. Some ladies in our party charged paint and powder upon them, but I do not see it. Their eyes are usually brown; their hair hid beneath their graceful head-gear. I saw positively no very plain ones; but there seemed to be extraordinary resemblance among them which perhaps was only due to the fact that the points in which they differed from Europeans and agreed together were to a stranger's eye more emphatic than the private marks by which face differs from face. I saw no grace in their motions, and nothing like elegance in figure. Indeed, figure is out of question in such bundles of drapery. There was also a great looseness and vacuity in the faces. They are said to be shockingly ignorant, helpless and vapid.—Letter to Liberal Christian.

PLANCHETTE ATTACKED IN ST. LOUIS.—The ecclesiastical head and rulers of the Catholic Church in St. Louis have given Planchette some study, and a prominent clergyman of the city expressed the result of that study in an address which he delivered yesterday, before a society of Catholic young men. He stated that the clergy of the diocese had been instructed that they denounce the use of Planchette in any of the families of their respective congregations, as a diabolical invention, calculated to foster superstition and be injurious to the good morals and religious instincts of the community. He declared Planchette to be an evil and pernicious instrument, the result of the cases which produced spirit rapping, table turning, and other kindred practices, the offshoots of spiritualism.

NOTABLE DREAMS.—A writer in the London Argosy says:

Doctor McNish, "happening to sleep in damp sheets, dreamed that he was dragged through a stream." Doctor Symonds witnessed in his sleep what he thought was a prolonged storm of thunder, which he was afterwards able to trace to the light of a candle brought suddenly into the dark room where he had fallen asleep. He relates that a person having a blister applied to his head fancied he was scalped by a party of Indians, remember, when a boy, sleeping in a strange house, in an old-fashioned room, with an open stove-cupboard over the bed. I dreamt that I was being murdered; the assassin struck me on the head, and I awoke with a sense of pain in that region. Putting my hand to my forehead, I found it sticky—with blood! I felt too ill to cry for help; but at length I alarmed the household, and on procuring a light, it was found that some fermented jam had leaked through the bottom of the cupboard and fallen upon my head in a small sluggish stream. A few months ago, shortly before going to bed, a friend had been discussing with me the peculiar instincts of animals. After this he dreamed he was a Worcester-shire shorthorn, grazing in a pleasant meadow on the Herefordshire side of the Malvern Hills. He had a number of companions. Signs of a storm appeared in the sky; a misty vapor hung on the well-known beacon. He remembered distinctly, although he was a cow, watching, with a sense of great delight,

the beauty of the preliminary tokens of the storm. With the other cows he quietly strolled towards the shelter of an adjacent tree, and waited until the storm should break. He was chewing the cud and relished its herbaceous flavor. He distinctly remembered wagging his tail. Yet all the time he had full reasoning faculties, and a lively sense of the beauties of the scenery.

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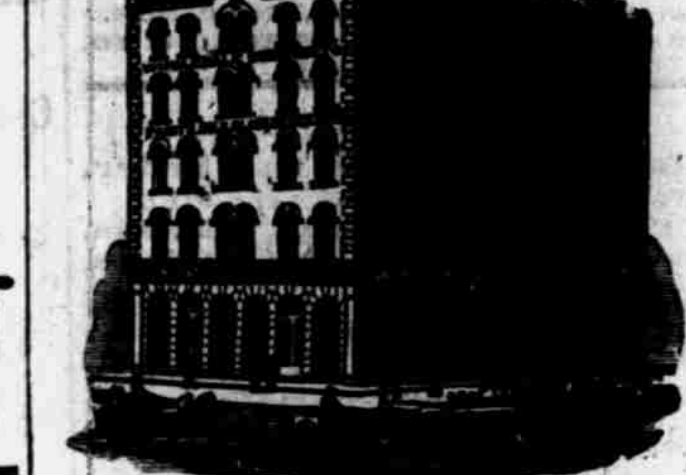
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