### GIRLS UNDER LOCK AND KEY.

**It Is the Custom in Brazil to Hide Women from Man's View.**

Mr. Bigg-Wither, an English engineer who was employed some years in railroad surveying in Brazil tells some interesting experiences among the landed proprietors. Being a man, he had a better opportunity than I to know how women depart themselves in the presence of the other sex. Let me quote a few paragraphs pertaining to a visit he made in the valley of Ivahy.

Senor Andrade was an old man and allowed his wife to do most of the talking for him when she was in the room. One of her first questions was to know whether I was married, and on hearing that I was still in the full enjoyment of freedom she proceeded to enlarge upon the delights of married life, at the same time informing me that she had five unmarried daughters. After this pretty broad hint of what was expected, of course I expressed a wish to make the acquaintance of these fair members of the family. Her face became suddenly grave, she looked hesitatingly at her husband, who had remained silently puffing his cigarette during the conversation, and he said something which I did not understand, but which at once dispelled her momentary gravity. The old man got up, went across to a locked door, turned the key, opened it and disappeared into a dark chamber within.

Almost immediately he returned, saying, "The girls are not accustomed to see strangers, and are afraid." Meanwhile the senora, who evidently now determined that her daughters should show themselves, had also disappeared into the secret chamber, from which now proceeded sounds of whispering and suppressed giggling. Presently the senora reappeared, leading a very modest looking damsel of about nineteen years, closely followed by three others, apparently somewhat younger. All were overwhelmed with intense shyness and an hysterical desire to laugh. After the formal and separate introduction of each—be it noted that the lady is here introduced to the gentleman—they all scampered back into the secret chamber, and their papa turned the key on them.

At this time I was ignorant of the custom which is so general in these out of the way parts of keeping women, or rather the daughters, of the family locked up like wild beasts; consequently I did not hesitate to express my wonder and to ask why it was done in this case. In answer Senor Andrade said that it was the custom of the country, and he had never thought of bringing up his daughters in any other way. "Do they ever go out?" I asked. "No, never," he replied; "not now that they are grown."

They had all learned horseback riding when children, but since then they had been shut up in the house, according to the custom for respectable girls, where they must remain until husbands can be obtained for them. Poor things! It is to be hoped that there are few old maids among the belles of Brazil.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### Alas! Fortune Is Very Fickle.

"Fortune plays some mad pranks," said C. M. Chowen, addressing the Mendacity club, assembled on the Southern sidewalks. "I was three times a millionaire and three times a pauper in one year. In 1863 an uncle in England left me a large fortune. I was living in Charleston, S. C., and engaged in blockade running. Half a dozen Yankee shells piled my fortune up at the bottom of the deep blue sea, and I went to Colorado and engaged in mining. I located one of the richest silver claims in the territory, but did not know its value. I sold it for a trifle, went to Chicago and bought property on Wabash avenue. It did not look as though it would ever be worth a plate of soup, and I almost gave it away. A fraction of it was sold the other day for a third of a million. It is said that fortune raps once at every man's door. It has thundered three times at mine, but I did not know how to entertain the coquettish minx. That is why I am now making night trains and absorbing railroad sandwiches."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### A Real Book Lover.

A real book lover is like a horse lover—the one will tend his library as the other will his stables. I can tell when a person takes up a book if he loves it or not by the way he handles it. An open fire is a necessity in a library; books require good air like a human being, and gas ought never to be used where valuable books are kept. Candles are hard on the eyes, though, and therefore should be avoided; oil or electricity are all better than gas, which acts as readily on bindings as it does on silver, in lieu of tarnishing, however, it affects their elasticity and pliable qualities.—Interview in New York Times.

### A Great Man's Way.

Frederick the Great looked with serene indifference on all that his enemies might say of him. One day, as he rode through Berlin, he saw a crowd of people staring up at something on the wall, and on sending his groom to inquire what it was, found it to be a caricature of himself.

The placard was put so high that it was difficult to read it, so Frederick ordered it to be placed lower in order that the people might not have to stretch out their necks.

The words were hardly spoken when, with a joyous shout, the placard was pulled down and torn into a thousand pieces, whilst a hearty cheer followed the king as he rode away.—Youth's Companion.

### He Had a Novel Remedy.

The six girls were chums and met yesterday afternoon at the house of a friend. Things went on smoothly enough for half an hour, when suddenly Miss Laura, an artful spitfire of eighteen, jumped up, clapped her hands and began hopping about the room on one foot.

"Well!" said the maiden aunt.

"Well!" ejaculated the girls.

"Well!" broke in mamma.

"Well!" said grandma.

But Miss Laura said not a word and kept on hopping.

"Miss Laura," said the strong minded aunt, "I am positively shocked!"

"So am I," said Laura, whooping it up.

"She is hysterical!" broke in mamma, beginning to sob.

"Feels like 'lectricity," shrieked Laura, making the tenth circuit.

"She is suffering with hysteria!" rejoined the aunt, making a move toward the door.

"Not—at—all," said Laura between hops.

"What is it then, dears" responded the frightened mother.

"Well, for the land's sake, speak!" broke in the girls, some of them in tears.

"I—will—tell—you!" said the girl, hopping like mad.

"Yes, dear"

"My—foot—is—asleep!"—New York Herald.

### A Crushed Ideal.

His keen, unfailing humor, guided by his most sensitive and delicate sympathy, made his rare hours of reminiscence golden ones to his listeners. Who has told, as he, the story of Thackeray's first meeting with Charlotte Bronter The tiny, intense creature had idealized Thackeray, personally unknown to her, with a passion of idealization. "Behold, a lion cometh up out of the north!" she quoted, under her breath, as Thackeray entered the drawing room. Some one repeated it to him. "Oh, Lord! said Thackeray, "and I'm nothing but a poor devil of an Englishman, ravenous for my dinner!"

At dinner Miss Bronte was placed opposite Thackeray by her own request. "And I had," said he, "the miserable humiliation of seeing her ideal of me disappearing down my own throat, as everything went into my mouth and nothing came out of it, until at last, as I took my fifth potato, she "caned across with clasped hands and tears in her eyes, and breathed imploringly: "Oh, Mr. Thackeray! Don't!"—Boston Transcript.

### Why People Stammer.

Stammering depends on a want of harmony between the action of the muscles (chiefly abdominal) which expel air through the larynx and that of the muscles which guard the orifice by which it escapes, with that of those which modulate the sound to the form of speech. Over either of the groups of muscles by itself a stammerer may have as much power as other people, but he cannot harmoniously arrange their conjoint action. Nervousness is a frequent cause of stammering. It is possible that the defect in some instances may result from malformation of the parts about the back of the mouth. The fact that stammering people are able to sing their words better than to speak them has been usually explained on the supposition that in singing the glottis is kept open, so that there is less liability to spasmodic action.—Brooklyn Eagle.

### Artesian Wells Have Helped Algeria.

Artesian wells have wrought wonders in Algeria.

Since 1856 in the provinces of Algiers, Oran and Constantine over 13,000 wells have been bored, one-tenth of them at government expense. These wells range from 75 to 400 feet in depth, and the low pressure common to the majority of them forces the water over the small board casing to a distance of only about two feet above the ground.

The water is collected in small reservoirs, from which it is conveyed to vineyards, date plantations and fields of durra, millet and wheat, which comprise the chief cereals of the colony. About 12,000,000 acres of desert land have been reclaimed in this way. Under this irrigation and reclamation scheme Algeria has become a great wine growing country. The total area under colonization or settled occupation in Algeria in 1887 was 50,000,000 acres, and of this area over 17,000,000 were under cultivation by irrigation for wheat, barley, oats, wine, olives, dates, tobacco, etc.—Eastern and Western Review.

### Names of Mount Ararat.

The Turks know Great Ararat, the resting place of the Biblical ark, as Aghri-Dagh, or "Mountain of the Ark." The Persians call it Koh-i-nuh, "Noah's Mountain." The Armenians call it the "Peak of God's Boatman," and whenever in sight of it perform a peculiar religious ceremony called "Lella Rimeri," or the "Brave Rhinoceros," because of a legend current among them that God cursed the beast and commanded Noah not to take him on the great craft with the other animals. To this treatment the rhinoceros objected, and when the ark began to float he hooked his horn over a railing at the water's edge and floated about with the Noahian vessel, an unwelcome parasite, during the forty days.—St. Louis Republic.


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