

A GLANCE AT MOROCCO.

THE WORLD'S MOST COMPLETE DESPOTISM.

One of the Mandates of its Ruler is That His Subjects Shall Obey All Foreigners—Atrocious Cruelties.

It has been often remarked of late that the Emperor of Morocco is about the most absolutely despotic monarch of whom the world knows anything in these days. He has Ministers, but they are merely his favorites for the time being, and subject to his whim. He has no laws to bother him save his will, and no precedents to respect or unpopular representatives to fear. He, himself, is law and justice, and 3,000,000 people hold their lives and property subject to his nod.

And yet his power is in many directions very narrowly circumscribed. The representatives of foreign nations have very diligently cut his claws. They have taken the natives under consular protection so freely that Emperor Muley Hassan must frequently have wondered whether or no he has any subjects to punish in that portion of his domains occupied by the foreigners. That is a good thing in its way, but a few years ago there was an angry dispute when it was found that, though there were only three Americans in Morocco, our consul there had made 150 American citizens out of the natives, that he himself intended upon being their judge, and that he was in the habit of thrusting into prison anybody against whom they made complaint. The Emperor has been frightened out of his wits by these proceedings, fearing that they might lead to the dismemberment of his empire; and a few years ago he ordered his subjects implicitly to obey all foreigners and all people protected by them. Dark crimes against person and property have been committed under this sanction, and many of these shrewd protectors, and not a few consuls as well, have grown rich from it.

Though the Moors have been nominal rulers of Morocco for 400 years they have never really been rulers of the whole country. The native Berbers were driven to the mountains, and there they have ever since remained, defiant and unconquered, and the emperors of Morocco have been glad enough to let them alone. The Kabyles of the Rif coast, who recently opposed the Spaniards at Melilla, belong to his stock, and Muley Hassan can in no way control them. They are a far superior race to the Moors, who are in fact largely Arabized dilutes with Spanish and other blood.

Human slavery flourishes openly and without hindrance there, even in the accessible cities, and almost within sight of Gibraltar; while the poor Jews, almost the only thrifty and peaceful element of the urban populations, are bled most unmercifully. Morocco is a fertile country, and rich in copper and other minerals. But the government will neither develop these resources itself, nor allow anybody else to do so. The Moors lack the foresight needful for agriculturists, and they never plant or gather enough to carry them through till the succeeding season, so that one bad harvest means great suffering.

The spirit of the Arabs is inherently antagonistic to Christian civilization, and were it not so the Government of Morocco would make thrift and industry impossible. Fez might readily be brought into direct steam communication with the world by means of the Sebou River. Instead, it was until very recent years almost an unknown city. There is not a highway worthy of the name leading from it. Indeed, there are said to be only two wagons in all Morocco. One is the coach presented by Queen Victoria to Muley Hassan a few years ago. He uses it, though he makes the driver walk, since no man must sit above the Emperor. The young Hessian prince, who fifty years ago took the first carriage to Tangiers, was only permitted to use it after he had taken off his wheels.

There is no regular means for the distribution of justice and none for the collection of taxes. When the Emperor needs money he directs the pashas to collect the tenth prescribed by the Koran. The pashas add a tenth for themselves, and the actual collectors put on another tenth for their trouble. If there is any suspicion that the man is not paying all he ought, the torture is a prompt and efficacious way of increasing the pile.

Justice is openly sold to the highest bidder, and to be accused of an offense against the government is to entail confiscation of all visible property, whether found guilty or not. It is not to be wondered at, then, that the inhabitants of Morocco live in squalor; that they bury their money whenever they think they can safely do so; that they wear dilapidated clothes and let their houses go to decay. To show any evidence of wealth is to invite misery and perhaps death.

Roasting, stretching, pinching, whipping, branding and mutilating are familiar forms of punishment in Morocco. Revolts are put down by wholesale massacres. Slow beheading with butchers' knives and daggers in the public street is of common occurrence. Theft is punished by cutting off the right hand; eyes are torn out, ears and noses are cut off for various offenses; the bodies of the poor are mutilated in the most horrible ways. Nor does conviction always precede punishment. It is ordinarily quite sufficient to have been accused, if the persecutor be a person of consequence. —[New York Press.

MISPRINTS IN THE BIBLE.

Curious Errors Which Have Been Found in Editions of Holy Writ. Many lists of misprints in the Bible have been printed, but the following, compiled by the Brooklyn Eagle, is probably the best in existence:

The Breches Bible is so named because it contains the phrase, "They sewed figge tree leaves together, and made them selves breches." Genesis 3:7. Printed in 1506.

The Bug Bible: "So that thou shalt not be afraid for any Bugges by night, nor for the arrow that flyeth by day." Psalms 91:5. Printed in 1551.

The Treacle Bible: "Is there not treacle in Gilead?" Jeremiah 8:22. Printed in 1568.

The Resin Bible, printed in 1603, translates the same verse, "Is there no resin in Gilead?"

The Placemaker's Bible: "Blessed are the placemakers." Matthew 5:9. 1561-2.

The Vinegar Bible: "The Parable of the Vinegar" appears instead of "The Parable of the Vineyard," as a chapter heading to Luke 20 in an Oxford edition published in 1717.

The Ear-to-Ear Bible: "Who hath ears to ear, let him hear." Matthew 13:43. 1810.

The Standing Fishes Bible: "And it shall come to pass that the fishes will stand upon it." Ezekiel 47:10. 1806.

The Discharge Bible: "I discharge thee before God." 1 Timothy 5:21. 1806.

The Wife-Hater Bible: "If any man

come to Me and hate not his father... yes, and his own wife also," etc. Luke 14:26. 1810.

Rebekah's Camels Bible: "And Rebekah arose and her camels." Genesis 24:61. 1823.

To Remain Bible: "Persecuted him that was born after the spirit to remain, even so it is now." Galatians 3:29. When this bible was in the press at Cambridge the proofreader, in doubt whether he should remove a comma, applied to his superior, who pencilled on the margin these words, "To remain." This reply was thus transferred to the body of the text.

The Wicked Bible, printed in London in 1633, was so called because the negation was omitted in the seventh commandment, thus placing an awful injunction on the faithful.

The Printers' Bible makes David pathetically complain that printers (instead of princes) have persecuted without cause.

The He and She Bible: From the respective readings of Ruth iii. 15, one reading that "she went into the city," the other has it "he went." 1611.

The Thumb Bible, being one inch square and half an inch thick, was published in Aberdeen, 1670.

The Murderers' Bible, so called from an error in Jude, verse 16, the word "murderers" being used for "murmurers." 1801.

Wierix's Bible: The edition of this Bible contains a plate by John Wierix, representing the feast of Dives with Lazarus at his door. In the rich man's banquet room there is a dwarf playing with a monkey, to contribute to the merriment of the company, according to the custom of the people of rank in the sixteenth century.

FAMOUS METEORIC STONES.

The Largest Known Weighs 50,000 Pounds.

A meteoric stone, which is described by Pliny as being as large as a wagon, fell near Aegospotami, in Asia Minor, in 467 B. C. About A. D. 1500, a stone weighing 1,400 pounds, fell in Mexico, and is now in the Smithsonian Institute at Washington. The largest meteoric masses on record were heard of first by Captain Ross, the Arctic explorer, through some Esquimaux. These lay on the west coast of Greenland, and were subsequently found by the Swedish exploring party of 1870. One of them, now in the Royal Museum of Stockholm, weighs over 50,000 pounds and is the largest stone known.

Two remarkable meteorites have fallen in Iowa within the past twenty years. February 12, 1875, an exceedingly brilliant meteor, in the form of an elongated horse-shoe, was seen throughout a region of at least 400 miles in length and 200 in breadth, lying in Missouri and Iowa. It is described as "without a tail," but with a flowing jacket of fire and flame. Detonations were heard as violent as to shake the earth and to jar the windows like the shock of an earthquake," as it fell about 10:30 p.m., a few miles east of Marengo, Iowa. The ground for the space of seven miles in length by two to four miles in breadth was strewn with fragments of this meteoric mass in weight from a few ounces to seventy-four pounds.

On May 10, 1870, a large and extraordinary luminous object exploded with terrific noise, followed at slight intervals with less violent detonations, and struck the earth in the edge of a ravine near Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa, penetrating to a depth of fourteen feet. Within a few miles other fragments were found, one of which weighed 170 pounds and another 82 pounds. The principal mass weighed 431 pounds. All the detached parts aggregated about 640 pounds. The one of 170 pounds is now in the cabinet of the State University of Minnesota. The composition of this aerolite is peculiar in many respects, but as in nearly all aerolites there is a considerable proportion of iron and nickel. It is generally held that meteorites are the one or another formed integral parts of a comet. The meteor enters the earth's atmosphere from without with a velocity relative to the earth that is comparable with the earth's velocity in its orbit, which is nineteen miles per second. By the resistance it meets in penetrating the air, the light and the other phenomena of the luminous train are produced. Many small meteorites are undoubtedly consumed by this friction, before they reach the earth's surface.

How Old Is the Human Race?

The fullest answer that science can yet give to the three most interesting questions which have ever asked in the world are explained by Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, the ethnologist. These questions are: "When did the first man appear?" "By what process did he appear?" and "Where did he appear?" Summing up all that geologists and anthropologists know, he appeared certainly 50,000 years ago, and it may be as many as 200,000 years ago. The evidences of his existence which date back 50,000 years are the human skeletons. By what process he came into being science has no definite answer. If it refuse to accept the doctrine of specific creation it must refuse also, for lack of complete evidence, to accept the doctrine of gradual evolution—the old Darwinian doctrine. Dr. Brinton thinks the theory of "evolution by a leap" is as good as any other theory. According to this, man sprang from some higher order of mammal, the great tree age, perhaps, by a freak, just as men of genius are freaks, and as all the vegetable and animal kingdoms show freaks. As to where man first appeared, it is beyond doubt that his earliest home was in Southern Europe, or Asia, or North Africa. No certain traces of him have been found from those found in the area that is now England, France, and Spain.—[Forum.

Presence of Mind in the Pulpit.

Frederick the Great, being informed of the death of one of his chaplains, a man of considerable learning and piety, desired to select a successor with the same qualifications, and took the following method of ascertaining the merit of one of the numerous candidates for the appointment. He told the applicant that he would furnish him with a text the following Sunday, when he was to preach at the Royal Chapel. The morning came, and the chapel was crowded to excess.

The King arrived at the end of the prayers; and on the candidate ascending the pulpit he was presented with a sealed paper by one of his majesty's aides-de-camp. The preacher opened it, and found nothing written. He did not, however, lose his presence of mind; but, turning the paper on both sides, he said:

"My brethren, here is nothing, and there is nothing; out of nothing God created all things;" and proceeded to deliver a most eloquent discourse on the wonders of the creation.—[Sala's Journal.

There are a million more men than women in the United States.

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures which Show That Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.

LIEUTENANT BOYLE T. SOMERVILLE, of the English Navy, recently returned from the Hebrides Islands, tells the following interesting tale regarding the work of a professional native rascal: Towards the end of the year, just after ram planting, there came an unusual period of drought, so that an inland tribe in the island of Ambrym went to its raimaker and demanded his immediate attention thereto. He at once set to work to weave a sort of hurdle of the branches and leaves of a tree famed for its rain-producing qualities, which, being finished, was placed, with proper incantations, at the bottom of what should have been a water-hole in the now parched bed of the mountain torrent. There it was then held in place with stones. Down came the rain, nor did it cease for forty-eight hours, by which time it had become too much of a good thing. Soon the rain-producing hurdle was quite ten feet under water in the seething torrent, and the people, much to their dismay, saw that their rams and the surrounding earth were beginning to wash away down the hillside.

The lieutenant continues: "Now mark what comes of fooling with the elements! No man of the hill country was able to dive to the bottom of the water-hole to pull up the hurdle with its weight of stones, as the merciless rain did for him. At last the shore divers, accustomed to swimming and diving, heard what the matter was, and some of them coming to the assistance, the compeller of the elements was recovered from its watery bed and—the rain stopped." It is such a coincidence as this, happening perhaps once in a decade, which causes this people, now thoroughly Christianized, to refuse to give to their rain god, although all other outward forms of rank superstition appear to be freely abandoned.

THOMAS lately called upon Prof. Cesar Lombroso, of the University of Turin, a well-dressed, pleasant-mannered young man, who represented that his wife was the victim of an extreme case of kleptomania, public shops, private houses—her own house even—being open fields to her in which to lay hands on the belongings of others. Previous medical treatment had failed; the aid of the law, doctor was solicited. By appointment the patient, a beautiful and engagingly frank young woman, was brought to Lombroso's office the next day. But while consultation was in progress between the distressed husband and the Doctor they detected the fair patient appropriating a gold statuette and a photograph from the brilliant collection in the act of bidding the Doctor good day, she adroitly relieved him of a valuable scarf pin. In an aside the distressed husband said: "You see for yourself how possessed she is with the thiefing instinct. I will bring you back all the missing articles to-morrow at any hour you may appoint, when you will gladly give me your opinion of the case and advise me what to do." The wife of the heartbroken man to appear with the valuables on the morrow, and the fact that a fair proportion of the physicians of the South of France and most of Italy are also patiently waiting to advise him how to treat his afflicted wife, who "borrowed" valuables of them also, leads Dr. Lombroso to the conviction that this was rather the more extreme case of kleptomania yet brought to his notice.

LABORERS were excavating in the cellar of a New York tenement, when they found upon an extraordinary sight. A workman removed some debris with his pick, and saw before him a cat with its tail in the air, its ears bent back, and its spine arched. He said "Shew, there!" But the cat remained motionless. The laborers ran up to see the cat. They found that it had turned to stone. It looked as natural as life. The head and legs, the arched spine and the tail were perfect. It was a petrified cat. How it came there and how it got petrified is a mystery. Inquiry was made. It was learned that William Godfrey, who was the armorer of the regiment ten years ago, had a pet cat. In the year 1883 the cat disappeared. The armorer thought much of the cat, and he offered a reward for its return. No trace of the lost cat was found. It is supposed that the cat ran under the cellar floor of the armory in pursuit of a rat. In its eagerness it entered some small aperture, from which it found retreat impossible, and perished inside. There were small springs in the ground and the earth was impregnated with lime. The head and legs, the arched spine and the tail were perfect. It was a petrified cat. How it came there and how it got petrified is a mystery. Inquiry was made. It was learned that William Godfrey, who was the armorer of the regiment ten years ago, had a pet cat. In the year 1883 the cat disappeared. The armorer thought much of the cat, and he offered a reward for its return. No trace of the lost cat was found. It is supposed that the cat ran under the cellar floor of the armory in pursuit of a rat. In its eagerness it entered some small aperture, from which it found retreat impossible, and perished inside. There were small springs in the ground and the earth was impregnated with lime. The head and legs, the arched spine and the tail were perfect. It was a petrified cat. 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