

PICKING AND CHOOSING.

A Favorite Occupation of the Street

An anonymous contributor to the Atlantic Monthly has been amusing herself by observing the amusements of poor children in city streets.

It was a cross street; there were very few people going by. It must have been a dreary tenement house indeed from which, on such a day, this bare place offered a refuge.

As I approached, they were gabbling, but softly, with their heads all together, and turned from me toward some retreating feminine figure.

Then lowering her voice, with a note of awe, she added: "Oh, see, see! Silki silk!" and the small, blue, grimy hands smoothed automatically her own ragged frock.

They were "choosing," you see, as I used to be from fashion plates, and were utterly oblivious of my existence other than as a lovely vision sent for their delight.

GOOD MEMORY.

It Is Not an Independent Faculty of the Mind.

Whatever may be said in regard to training the memory, it must be remembered that memory is not, as used to be supposed, an independent faculty of the mind that in some mysterious way may be directly strengthened by exercise.

Hence, says Scribner, whatever in general is conducive to vigorous health, and whatever tends to habits of clear and orderly thinking—such conditions will aid recollection.

GREAT HEROISM.

The Courageous Conduct of a Young Japanese Nobleman.

Spurred to mind a story of an officer in the emperor's army who were besieging a fortress, says Sir Edwin Arnold.

As he was going out with this precious information he was detected and the enemy said to him: "We are going to crush you, but we will let you off on one condition—that you go to the wall and tell your people that we have supplies for a week."

JAPANESE COURTESY.

How It is Manifested Under Serious Disadvantage.

How it is manifested in Japan is performed with courtesy and consideration for others.

On the feet of cord remain. The policeman grups the loose end, and bowing to the prisoner with an "After you, Sir," the pair march away in a touching scene of modesty and security.

Auto Know Their Friends. It is seldom, if ever, that auto belonging to the same fraternity quarrel with one another.

some ate very drunk. One-half was from one nest and the other half from another nest. He marked them with spots of different colors, to distinguish them.

IN HARD LUCK.

The Unfortunate Condition of a Selen of Royalty.

A shivering wretch, with barely clothes enough to dust a fiddle with, entered the Chestnut street police station with the wintry blast one night, says the St. Louis Chronicle.

"I never in my life saw a man so badly pockmarked." Then he said to the man at the railing: "You must have fallen into a keg of nails when you were young and your flesh was tender."

"It's my face you mean, sor? Iadade I did not, but I'll tell you how it was. I was the first-born in me family, and me father was the wealthiest man in Ireland.

SOCIETY IN THE GULCH.

Jim Couldn't Go Because He Was Short on Ornaments.

There was to be a dance in the gulch that night, and all her beauty and her charms were to be on hand, says New York Truth.

Upon the mountain side a light flicker from the window of Dandy Jim's cabin.

The revelers observed it as they went in groups to the ball and wondered.

Jim was usually the very first at all festive occasions and the last to leave.

An hour after the latest arrivals had made their appearance Jim had not come.

Wander gave place to alarm then and a committee of three was appointed to go to Jim's cabin and investigate.

The light from the window streamed down the path and the visitors found no difficulty in reaching the cabin though the night was dark.

In response to their knock they were invited to enter, and within they found Dandy Jim seated in the corner in the deepest dejection.

"Hello! Jim," greeted the spokesman, cheerily, "why ain't yer at the shindig?"

"Can't, boys. I can't come," and Jim's lips quivered.

"What's the row? Got news from the east? Is yer mother dead or yer wife livin'?"

"Wuzn't that, boys. I ain't got nuthin' to wear. Both my revolvers is outen order and a Winchester is sich danged bad form, beskie bein' awkward to dance in."

Jim hastily brushed his eyes and the visitors looked mournfully at each other.

They knew that on such a night there were no spare garments in the gulch that would fit Dandy Jim.

Hindoo Superstition.

A spectacle was witnessed at Madura, India, which shows how little "the progress of education" has as yet affected the ideas of the people.

To propitiate the goddess to whose malignity the death of rain is, according to Hindoo superstition, attributed, the barbarous practice of "hook-swinging" was revived.

Quite Recent, in Fact. "And how old are you, my little man?" said the school trustee, to a little five-year-old.

"I'm not old at all. I'm nearly new!" was the response.—Texas Siftings.



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