

THERE ARE DRAGOMANS AND DRAGOMANS, AS MOST AMERICAN TOURISTS WHO EMPLOY THEM IN THE ORIENT SOON DISCOVER.

SOME RISE TO HIGH RANK IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

The dispatch from Egypt published in the newspapers here a few days ago to the effect that a hotel porter at Cairo had shot dead two dragomans and dangerously wounded a third, will have suggested the likelihood of grave international complications to those who recall the fact that the dragomans of the foreign embassies and legations throughout the Orient are officials of high rank in the diplomatic service.

Few American tourists have visited Egypt, Turkey, Algeria, Tunis or any other portions of the Levant without being subjected to the extortions of these so-called dragomans, whose services they engage as guides, interpreters and general factotums, and many is the modern pilgrim to the Holy Land which has been deprived of the religious satisfaction which it would have otherwise afforded by the conviction on the part of the pilgrim that he was being subjected by his dragoman to far worse robbery than the man who went down from Jerusalem to Jericho in Biblical times and fell among thieves.

Knowing his power, the dragoman does not scruple to abuse it. He imposes his will upon the tourist, more or less insidiously. Being the only member of the party cognizant of the language, he is the one person on whom the tourist is necessarily dependent for all his communications with the local authorities, tradespeople and with the natives in general.

and while his nominal wage is \$1 a day, his actual plunder is only restricted by the size of his employer's purse. Of course, there are some relatively honest dragomans, who are content to thrive on a small scale. But they are the exceptions that go to constitute the rule, and as a class the dragomans of the tourists may be described as thoroughly dishonest, and recruited to such an extent from the nondescript scum of the Levant that one shudders sometimes to think of the extent to which one has been at these men's mercy.

Pranzini, who met with his death on the scaffold at Paris, was for several years a dragoman in Egypt and the Holy Land, and there are many other dragomans of the same stripe whose careers have been brought to a close in European penitentiaries. When Lord Wolsey made his memorable expedition up the Nile in a vain attempt to rescue General Gordon at Khartoum, he engaged a number of these dragomans as third and fourth class interpreters of the army. But so bad was their conduct that many of them had to be drummed out of camp and sent down the river in irons, and it may be interesting to add that one of the dragomans thus "sent down" for offences officially described in Lord Cromer's dispatch dated August 20, 1885, as "irregularity and bad character" turned up some time afterward here in the United States, posing as a professor of Egyptology, as an intimate friend and comrade of Gordon, and actually had the audacity to secure connection with one of the leading universities of this country before being exposed.

If I have thus expatiated on the character of the dragoman of the type killed by the hotel porter at Cairo the other day, it is for the purpose of rendering still more pronounced the contrast that exists between them and the dragomans of the embassies and legations in the Orient. They, too, it is true, are interpreters. But nowadays they are required to be men of gentle birth and breeding, natives and citizens of the country to the diplomatic service of which they belong, and to be possessed not only of a greater range of learning than is required of their fellow secretaries of the mission, but likewise of the exceptional gifts of discretion, tact and intuition in dealing with the complexities of the Oriental character. Formerly, it is true, this was not the case.

Last time—it was in the early part of the last century—the dragomans of the various embassies at Constantinople were almost every one of them Levantines, many of them related to one another. But as the diplomatic intercourse of the Sublime Porte with the Western powers increased in importance, and international rivalries on the shores of the Bosphorus became more acute, the disadvantages of the system became more and more apparent. There was a continual leakage of diplomatic secrets. Levantines have neither the notions nor the principles of a citizen of one of the Western powers. They look upon affairs in an altogether different light, and this, together with their local relationships, led them often to sacrifice the interests of the government to which they had given their allegiance to other considerations. It was then that the English Government instituted the excellent rule, since adopted by all other Western nations, requiring that the dragomans of the various embassies and missions should be native born citizens of the country which they help to represent, and endowed with the status of the latter with a prestige and a distinction which it had not until then enjoyed.



SIR ERNEST SATOW, K. C. M. G.

legations in the Orient, with a salary from the very start of \$1,000 a year, together with their passage money, lodging and sundry allowances. After a certain time they are required to pass examinations in the language of the country in which they are stationed, and usually at the end of three years are sufficiently qualified to act as what are known as consular assistants, with a considerable increase both of pay and allowances. Their next stage is that of vice-consul, or assistant dragoman, of the legation of the country, in which they are located, and after that the next step is that of consul, with salaries ranging from \$1,600 to \$8,000 a year, or dragoman, that is, Oriental secretary and chief interpreter of the embassy, with pay and allowances of a similar amount.

Some of them eventually rise to the rank of ministers plenipotentiary, a case in point being that of Sir Ernest Satow, now British envoy to the court of Peking, with a salary of \$25,000

material of lighter weight and color, the shaft terminating in pure white marble, with a Corinthian capital. To crown it all, we want a replica of the Lincoln statue in Lincoln Park, Chicago. We hope to obtain that from Mr. St. Gaudens, the sculptor.

Back of the shaft will be a central memorial hall. This we have planned to construct of white marble, with a copper roof. It will have a Greek front, supported by four marble columns. In the center of the chamber we want to have another Lincoln statue. There is one of marble stored away in a cellar in New-York City. I understand it is of remarkable beauty and wonderfully life-like. I have tried to make an examination of it, but was prevented from so doing by reason of the absence of the owner from the city. This statue is valued at \$20,000, and we hope we may be able to secure it. On the walls in this memorial chamber

a year, allowances to the extent of some \$10,000 more and a residence built and maintained at the expense of his government. Sir Harry Parkes, Sir Thomas Wade and Sir Rutherford Alcock, who each in turn represented the English crown as minister plenipotentiary at Peking, and in two cases at Tokio, all began their diplomatic career as student interpreters, and the same may be said of most of the British consuls general in the Far East, the consulate general of Shanghai being worth some \$10,000 a year and allowances.

The question will naturally occur as to why envoys whose past careers as interpreters have made them thoroughly acquainted with the language of the nation to whose court they are accredited should stand in need of dragomans or interpreters in dealing with the native officials and princes. Sir Ernest Satow, when minister at Tokio, possessed a far more profound knowledge of the Japanese language in all its various phases than any of the interpreters forming part of the staff of his mission. He is to-day equally well acquainted with the Chinese tongue, while Sir Thomas Wade, before becoming envoy at Peking, had compiled both a Chinese grammar and a Chinese dictionary. Old Sir John Drummond Hay was equally proficient in Arabic when representing England at the court of Morocco, and I could cite many other cases of the same kind.

The use of an interpreter in diplomatic and consular dealings in the Orient is to-day more a matter of etiquette and of policy than of necessity, and has been retained owing to its very obvious advantages. For while the interpreter is engaged in translating from one language into another the remarks of his chief the latter has time for reflection, and also for scrutinizing the effect of his utterances. The native dignitaries find a similar advantage in the use of the interpreter. Thus Sultan Abdul Hamed talks French perfectly, yet makes a point of never using the language in his verbal intercourse with the foreign ambassadors, always conversing with them through his interpreter, and finding thus time to ponder over the words addressed to him before being compelled to respond thereto. The orientals are an impassive race, with a marvellous command, not merely of their features, but even of the glimmer and gleam of those eyes which have been so justly described as "the windows of the soul." The diplomats whose training has been acquired in the Far East acquire in course of time a similar imperturbability, and I have sometimes been keenly interested to watch conversation carried on in this fashion between European diplomats and Oriental statesmen, whose each understood perfectly every word as it fell from the other's lips, though giving not even the faintest sign of comprehension until the remark had been duly translated by the interpreter.

OTHERS REMAIN ALWAYS NECESSARY SPECIES OF EVIL.

Peking and Tokio, the first dragoman—at Peking he is called the Chinese secretary, and at Tokio the Japanese secretary—is the alter ego of the envoy to a far greater extent than any other member of the mission. All dealings with the under secretaries of State, and at Constantinople to a great extent with the ministers themselves, are carried on through the dragoman, not as the interpreter, but as the representative of the envoy. It is he who confers with the native dignitaries, who conveys to them the wishes of his government in all minor matters, and in all routine intercourse, the envoy himself only appearing on the scene when questions of great importance arise. This, of course, adds to the prestige of the ambassador, and gives additional weight to his intervention in any matter. In this manner the dragoman comes to have the entire work of the mission—its projects and its negotiations at its floggers' ends, and this in itself renders him the most useful of all the members of the staff of the mission to his chief. The dragoman ranks with the second secretary of the embassy or legation. This is a relic of olden times, when the dragomans were mostly of foreign birth, and a movement has already been started to give from henceforth the chief dragoman rank immediately next to the first secretary, with the privilege of becoming chargé d'affaires in the event of the latter's absence at the same time as that of the envoy. This prerogative he does not now enjoy.

One word more in conclusion about Sir Ernest Satow, who is one of the most remarkable men in the diplomatic service of Great Britain. His knowledge of Buddhism acquired in Japan and Siam is so extensive that he is regarded by the high dignitaries of this religion in the Orient as one of its most learned doctors, and through his acquaintance with the Chinese classics, which is vastly superior to that of most Chinese literati, he is pre-eminently the man qualified to impress the Chinese authorities. Aside from Sir Robert Hart, there is no European who is so thoroughly equipped to understand and appreciate the peculiar workings of the Oriental mind and view, and thus to place himself in official negotiations on the same plane as those with whom he is called upon to deal. Relicent and reserved in manner, with a most perfect control of his impulses and utterances, he possesses the gift of charming every one by his brilliant conversation and perfect manners, the latter imbued with something of the stately dignity of true Oriental courtesy.

EX-ATTACHE.

THE ARTISTIC APARTMENT.

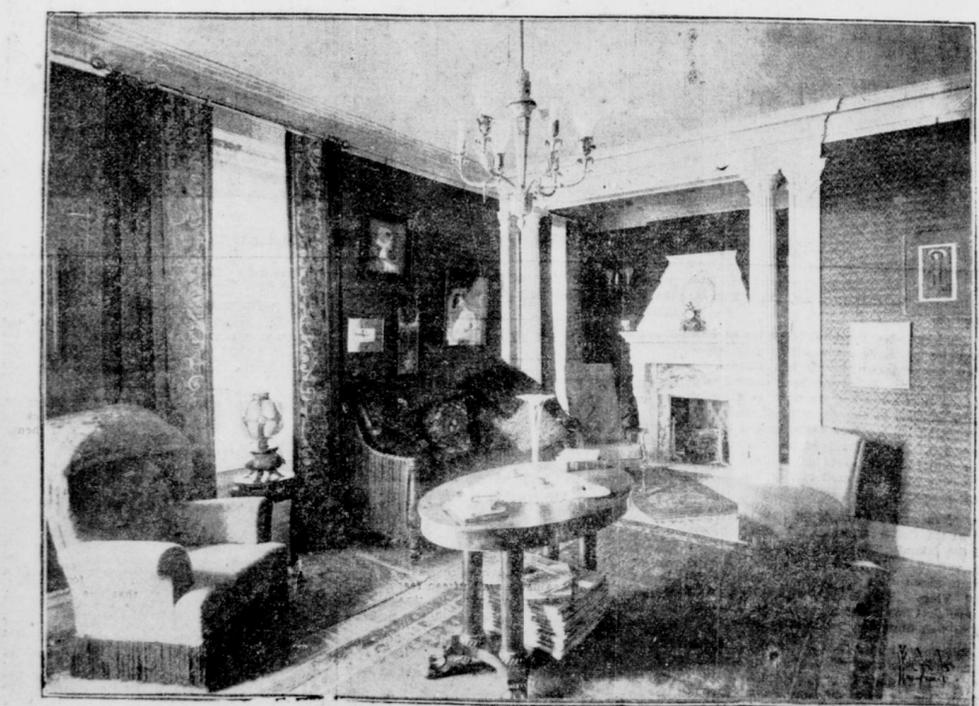
INTERESTING COMPARISON BETWEEN PRIVATE HOUSES AND FINE SUITES OF ROOMS.

The Tribune has been reproducing recently views of the interiors of fine private houses in this city, and they have been much admired; but if any one gets the idea that handsome and spacious rooms are confined to private houses a glance at the photographs published to-day of the interior of a first class apartment house in this city should dispel that illusion. In fact the combination of artistic beauty with privacy and comfort achieved in the finest of the recently erected apartment houses in this city is a serious menace to the private dwelling house market.

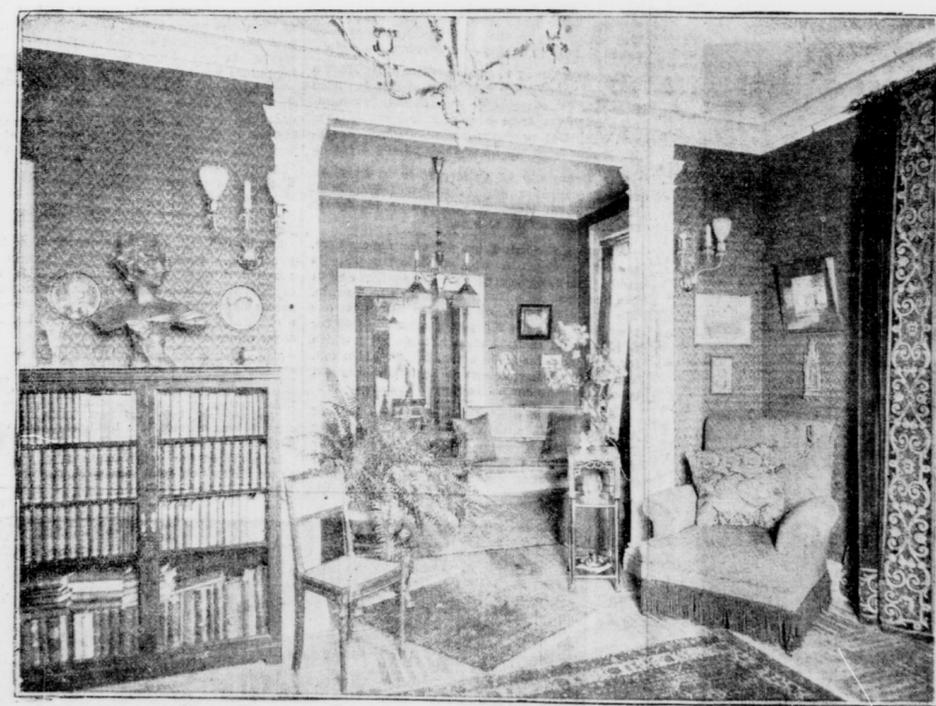
The growing tendency among the wealthier classes to spend the greater part of the year in the country, makes an apartment in one of these new type of buildings, where every luxury and convenience are combined with facilities for entertaining on a large scale, particularly desirable. Structures of this kind are becoming numerous, especially on the West Side.

A Tribune reporter visited a typical apartment house of this kind the other day. Passing through massive gates of wrought iron, arising from heavy stone pillars, a small courtyard, hedged with boxwood, leads to the main entrance doors of green bronzes, in beautiful design. A handsome screen of wrought iron and bronze separates the vestibule from the main entrance hall, in which striking decorative effects have been carried out. The walls are of white Chien stone, with picturesque little windows and arched niches projecting from above at various points. The ceiling is an exact reproduction of that of an old castle in Rouen, being richly decorated in blue, scarlet and gold. Light is admitted through large casement windows set with cathedral glass. A broad winding staircase of white stone and marble, with a richly carved balustrade and paneled on the underside like the winding stairs of the Chateau de Blois, leads to the floors above. In another part of the hall is a large fireplace, over which is a hood wrought out of stone, on the centre panel of which the escutcheon of France I is carved. Massive and richly chased bronze doors lead to the several apartments on the ground floor.

The apartments are arranged in suites of ten and eleven rooms, with three or four bathrooms and three music rooms, to suit a set of twenty rooms, with five bathrooms. The interiors of the apartments are replete with artistic decorative effects. A typical suite in the building has the drawing room hung with blue Flemish silk embroidered in silver. The mantle of white Chien stone, richly carved, is faced with golden Favianazzo marble. The library, with a quaint arrangement of long, low book shelves, is in dull green and gold Italian leather. The dining room has wainscots and beams of Spanish oak. The electric lights are arranged



A SITTING ROOM IN AN APARTMENT HOUSE. (Photograph by Wurtz Brothers.)



A LIBRARY IN AN APARTMENT HOUSE. (Photograph by Wurtz Brothers.)

A LINCOLN MEMORIAL.

PROPOSITION TO ERECT IT ON A MOUNTAIN PEAK IN COLORADO.

Many statues of Lincoln have been erected in different parts of the country, nearly every large city and many small ones having a memorial of the war President. A proposition comes from Colorado for the erection of a somewhat unique



memorial in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. It is proposed to construct a building of Grecian architecture, forming a background to a shaft of granite and marble, surmounted by an authorized replica of the St. Gaudens statue of Lincoln, the whole on the summit of a hill 500 feet high. This is the plan of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Association of Salida, Col. The town numbers about three thousand people. It is situated in a valley about three miles wide and ten miles long, just north of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. The Denver and Rio Grande main line runs through the town; also the narrow gauge branches of the same railway system running to Alamosa and Gunnison diverge from Salida. On the north bank of the Arkansas River, northwest of the town, is a symmetrical elevation named Mount Lookout. A trail leads to the top, from which a panoramic mountain view is to be secured. Years ago William P. Harbottle, now postmaster at Salida, was a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. In the war Mr. Harbottle served for two years in the army. He argues that in America memorials and monuments of a public character are comparatively few. There are the Bunker Hill and Washington monuments, the Grant and Lincoln tombs and soldiers' monuments of various degrees of excellence, nearly all in the East and South. In the Rocky Mountain region there is only a diminutive pile in the Teton gorge, Colorado; the Custer monument in Dakota, and the Ames monument at Sherman, Wyo. In view of these facts, he conceived the idea of a structure on Mount Lookout and took steps to carry out the idea. By his efforts the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Association was organized in 1887, and incorporated. It has a charter for fifty years, and there is no restriction in either the articles of incorporation or the deeds of purchase of land as to when active construction work must begin. The officers of the association are Salida representative men and women interested in the Grand Army of the Republic, with Mr. Harbottle as secretary. General John C. Black, Mr. Dalzell and others high in Grand Army of the Republic circles have enthusiastically and unhesitatingly commended the plan. The Grand Army of the Republic Department of Colorado and Wyoming has endorsed the project. I have appeared before the National Encampment to urge some action and an appropriation for the work, but as other business was considered more pressing nothing was done. But it will surely be taken up at some time or other and carried to completion. We shall need \$100,000 to construct the memorial and provide a fund for its maintenance. Naturally the most prominent object about the memorial will be the monument to Lincoln. The base will be of rough granite resting on the solid rock of the mountain. Above this there will be

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