

Offensive Manners of Boorish Americans Abroad

They Frequently Irritate Natives Into Dangerous Fury.

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NO tourist from the United States visiting the Holy Land is entirely safe from murderous attacks such as that made a couple of weeks ago by an Afghan pilgrim in the Mosque of Omar, in Jerusalem, upon a couple of American women, one of them sustaining a mere flesh wound, while the other, more seriously injured, is reported to have lost an eye. For, no matter how careful foreigners may be to refrain from exciting the susceptibilities of the natives and to avoid giving offence, they can never be sure that some fanatic may not deem it his duty to avenge upon them affronts to his faith of which others, who have been less considerate, may have rendered themselves guilty.

The matter is one calling for a far larger amount of attention than it has received in this country. For, with the increased facilities and cheapness of foreign travel, every city of the Union, and even the smallest town, furnishes its quota to the legions of tourists that cross the Atlantic each year to visit the old world. Indeed, all of them, and not only they, but also the relatives and friends whom they have left at home, are much interested in diminishing as much as possible the risk that may be thus said to dog the footsteps of the "Innocent Abroad," a risk which is far more real than most people seem to imagine.

It can only be guarded against by the acquisition of the lesson that every American on yonder side of the water is popularly regarded as a representative of his nation, and should bear himself with a full sense of his responsibility as such, with the courtesy and consideration for others that one expects to find in a well bred citizen of the United States.

To any one who has lived in the Orient it is a subject of surprise that outside such as that which took place the other day in the Mosque of Omar are not far more frequent, for Orientals are usually very sensitive about their religion. Keen to resent anything that can be construed as disrespect, filled with the more or less latent but always

existent animosity toward the white races, holding human life cheap, especially where an "unbeliever" is concerned, and far more indifferent than ourselves to pain and death, it is amazing that they should not give free rein more often than they do to the impulse murderously to attack on the spot those who in their eyes are profaning things that they hold sacred and in reverence.

That the natives have very serious grounds for irritation cannot be denied. And, far from diminishing, the causes are increasing proportionately with the growth of the facilities and cheapness of travel, which brings to the Orient tourists of a class still more devoid of good breeding and, above all, of good manners than those who have gone before. Americans are by no means the only offenders, nor yet the worst, although they are possibly among the most conspicuous by reason of their superiority of numbers and of means—means which more often in the United States than anywhere else are to be found in the possession of self-made people, who have not enjoyed all the advantages of early refinement. Moreover, they are extraordinarily unimpressible to the character of their surroundings.

True, the bump of veneration plays a less important role in American phenology than in that of any other nation. The spirit of reverence is conspicuous by its absence, this being largely due to the doctrines of democracy, which teach that each man is as good as another. The old French maxim saying, "Rien n'est sacré pour un sapeur" ("Nothing is sacred to a sapper"), has been parodied abroad into "Nothing is sacred to an American"—that is to say, nothing is supposed to ever feaze either the sons or the daughters of Uncle Sam.

What is, however, a general lack of reverence in the American tourist is often in his German, and more especially in his English fellow travellers an ill bred and openly professed contempt for everything that does not accord with their ideas in matters of creed, custom and prejudice. If the American gives offence to native susceptibilities it is unintentional and arises from a congenital lack of comprehension of the meaning of the word respect; whereas the British tourist of the ill bred grade intentionally offends, through a determination to emphasize his superiority by publicly expressing his contempt for

everything foreign, especially where religious practices and prejudices are concerned.

Thus Americans will through thoughtlessness take snapshots in the Mosque of Omar, possibly ignoring the fact that the portraying of human beings, and more especially of dignitaries of the Mahometan Church, is strictly forbidden by Koranic precept. But the English tourist of the type which I have in

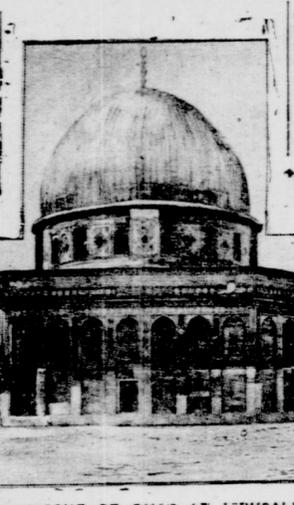


THE MOSQUE OF OMAR AT JERUSALEM.

Here two American women visitors were murderously attacked by an Afghan pilgrim whose worship they disturbed.

mind—and, alas, it is a numerous type—will absolutely refuse to remove his boots—or even to don the carpet slippers which in some places are permitted as an alternative—before entering the mosque, will tramp about in muddy, hobnailed footwear over the exquisitely plaited mats and superbly lacquered floors of temples in Japan, China and Siam, on the ground that it would be lowering his dignity as a Briton to make any concession to the feelings of the "niggers"—for to him all the dusky hued races, no matter whether Chinese, Japanese or Indian ruler, such as the Nizam of Hyderabad or the King of Gwalior, are "niggers."

It is the English tourist of the kind such as the woman who insisted on leading her pet dog about with her in the great cathedral at Messina just before its destruction by the earthquake, the Englishman who in Spain defiantly refuses to doff his hat in token of re-



THE TAJ MAHAL.

Famous tomb constantly desecrated by luncheon parties.

venge which they had brought, along with a basket of sandwiches, in order to refresh themselves during the ceremony.

American tourists will through sheer thoughtlessness and lack of reverence stand on the graves of the cemetery on the north side of Jerusalem while ministers of their own faith are holding religious services there, and it has been found necessary on this account to fence in the cemetery in order to protect the graves from such usage, although elsewhere in the Orient cemeteries remain unguarded, being sufficiently safeguarded by the reverence of the people. But this, though regrettable, is certainly done without any intention of offence, and is not to be compared with the conduct of the English tourist who purposely keeps on his hat in a Christian or native place of worship in order to show his disdain for a creed that differs from his own.

The American may arouse the indignation of the Moslem by picnicking

with ham sandwiches within the precincts of the tombs of the Caliphs, near Cairo, either forgetful or wholly ignorant of the fact that the meat of the pig is in the eyes of Islam a source of terrible defilement. But he will not purposely thrust a sandwich of this kind upon a native, with the avowed purpose of dismaying him and insulting him, as I have known a boorish English tourist to do in a public conveyance at Cairo.

In former times, when the British Civil Service in India, instead of being open to general competitive examination, was restricted to carefully selected appointees, and when the officials were nearly all men of breeding and of gentle birth, they themselves instituted laws for the severe punishment of any foreigner guilty of anything that could be construed in the light of profanation of temples, tombs and other places held sacred by the natives. All that could possibly be devised to safeguard the religious susceptibilities of the natives, and to protect them from affront, in connection with their time honored customs of caste, creed and social system, was done, and the Briton who rendered himself guilty of the slightest lack of respect toward persons, inanimate things, or even animals held sacred by the natives, incurred fine, imprisonment, dismissal if he happened to be in government service, and what is more, ostracism by his fellow countrymen in India, who took the ground that he had jeopardized their safety and lowered their prestige by his boorishness and lack of consideration.

Unfortunately, the Civil Service in India is now composed largely of men of a different stamp, and the consequence is that the tone of the British community in India has radically changed. There is but little of the former regard for native sentiment. The laws enacted for the protection of buildings held in veneration by the dusky legions of King Edward have become a dead letter, and the desecration of the Taj Mahal by luncheon parties, the world famed mausoleum of Shah Jehan, at Agra, has become a quite common custom among officials, and especially tourists, without any let or hindrance on the part of the authorities. It is this alteration in the behavior of the English in India toward the natives, which is accountable in no small degree for the extraordinary

Assault on Women in Holy Land a Recent Example.

growth of the animosity of the people of Hindustan against Great Britain in recent years.

To-day the Taj Mahal is defaced at almost every point within reach by the scrawls of the foreign visitors, some of them consisting merely of the writer's name and some of words, sentences and verses, the indecency of which is on a par with their vulgarity. This species of disgraceful vandalism, which has been aptly described as "The Mark of the Beast" (every one of my readers will recall Kipling's striking story of that name about the drunken Englishman who ground his lighted cigar butt on the forehead of the statue of the monkey god at Dharmasala), is to be found on every public monument, no matter how hallowed its associations in the eyes of Moslems, Buddhists, Brahmans, Jews or Christians, throughout Asia and Europe, but more especially in the Orient. Neither Mahometan mosque nor Christian cathedral, neither stately mausoleum nor historic monument, is safe from this species of desecration, and when in the presence of some mighty memorial of the past, such as, for instance, the Temple of Luxor or the Church of the Holy Sepulchur at Jerusalem, or the Taj Mahal at Agra, one yields for a moment to the influences of the environment, and the mind wanders back to those scenes with which the spot is more particularly associated; one is quickly brought back to most prosaic everyday life, devoid of sentiment or romance, by catching sight of the pencilled or fountain pened indications on the wall that some English tripper of the great family of Jones or some American tourist of the still more numerous family of Smith has passed that way and left his mark.

EX-ATTACHE.

EASILY EXPLAINED.

"Strange," murmured the editor, "that this anecdote of George Washington has never been in print before."

"Not at all," explained the occasional contributor; "I only thought of it last night."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mme. Oilly "Just Grooved" Like Topsy, Never Was Trained

So She Says, but an Interview Shows She Is Mistaken.

ALL those who have written of "Miss Oilly," as she, in a genial attempt to be American, calls herself, have spoken of her as a wonderfully trained actress. They have called attention to her control and her expressiveness as unmistakable signs of careful study of her art and have declared that her whole technique is different from that of American actresses. It was, they said, her training, her European stage education.

I had down all the reviews and criticisms I had read of her and, putting on my hat and coat, I went up to request an interview with her.

"European stage training makes an actress subtle, varied in expression, graceful, perfect in control of situation and self; what is such training? I was going to make her tell me."

The door opened and in came one in a whirlwind. A rapid gray streak would picture her as she crossed to me, and by the time she had reached me she was practically a blur. Then the blur gradually resolved itself into the person of Mme. Marietta Oilly, who is now playing at the Lyric.

"They blame us in this city for exceeding the speed limit in all our little acts, but it does not seem as if anything is done to check the feet and agility of the first-arrived. Indeed, the sunlight was almost blinding. I had to close my eyes after the first thing Mme. Oilly spoke about after she had settled herself comfortably."

"Am I wrong or is it not more brilliant than anywhere else?" she demanded.

The question was followed by another and another and yet again. I slowly realized that I was the one who was being interviewed. Time went on until at last I began to wake up to the fact that the sun had described a considerable arc in the sky and still my voice had not been heard as it upward infection once. She had had a full hour's work.

"European stage training teaches one to 'act' first, anyway," I mused. "There's no feeling your ground. Just dash in and grab the situation by the ears."

"What training had you for all this?" I started out. "That is, for this stage career of yours?"

"Oh, great surprise. 'I—no training—none at all!'"

The subject of my search and the reason for my interview both lay dead at my feet. She had no training at all!

I was about to rise and back to the door when suddenly I remembered that if ever there was a hard time to give a hard time I was on the point of giving a little bit longer to her. Every one should be told for good luck. I just in time, and I will. I looked at her strangely indefinite face which seemed to have no set expression of its own, but across which fitted the suggestion of many different kinds of persons.

It is never easy to get an artist to tell you he was trained. I never yet heard of one that had a method or training for his art. He thinks he is just born to it. Perhaps if he realized he had such things he would be no artist. Yet they had told me that Mme. Oilly was a trained actress, and maybe she had been taught. I was sure without being aware of it. Was that the European way, to educate you without your knowing it?

In talking to her one could not help noting how unconscious she was of herself. As she sat there she changed her position often, but always with easy grace, sometimes leaning forward across the space between us, then back to a reclining posture again. Once I saw that her feet were drawn beside her on the settee, though I had not noticed how she got them there.

I asked her if she knew why European actresses were more expressive than Americans.

"There," she exclaimed. "You interest me very much with that. I have noticed, for I have, certainly, that is the education of it? All Americans are very reserved. I have watched American women move into a car, tall, erect, with young faces, and often with white hair, but always cold and reserved. I have envied



MARIETTA OILLY.

German-Italian actress, who is playing here in "The Whirlwind."

them and tried to copy them. But of course," with a shrug and a laugh, "I have no success."

"And it is the same here with the people on the stage. In Europe if an actress made up as they do here, with beautiful, big, surprised eyes and stiff gowns in which they cannot move, and acted with that—what shall I say?—restraint, lack of gesture and face expression, they would not succeed. Let me tell you how they do it."

"Willingly," I breathed in an aside to myself, but I merely nodded my head.

"A young actress in Germany begins in the provinces, that is, anywhere outside of Berlin," went on Mme. Oilly. "I was in a stock company, and is given all kinds of parts. She is taught, for each part, the necessary stage business, but is not taught how to act. She is supposed to be naturally an actress, or she would not be on the stage. Of course, she is not very good at first. But the director of the piece helps her sometimes with a general suggestion, a broad stroke. The ones who teach her details are—perhaps you would not expect it—audience and the newspaper critics. The audience is very near to you in Germany. 'In time,' and then the audience is extremely attentive. They hang on your words and follow you so closely that there is a breathless sort of expression of opinion sent from them to you about every move you make. You feel that their keen eyes will miss nothing that you do, and it encourages you to use very free expressions—that is, fine, I mean dramatic!"

"Subtle, perhaps?" I suggested.

"Yes, exactly, subtle. Then the newspaper critics. They are a great help. They point out little tiny defects; give little, little praises for the turn of a wrist, or something. They speak of voice and pronunciation. A German is, oh, dreadfully particular about his language. It must be spoken to him just so or he won't accept it."

"And so, after the actress has gotten to play big parts in the provinces—Juliet, Hedda, everything—and is considered good, she is sent to Berlin, perhaps, and there she takes very little parts again, and if she suits the public she is slowly given more important things."

"Her looks do not count much; at least, not as much as expressions do here. So it is not as you feel, and you feel, and you express. Do you understand me? That is the German actress's training. And it is quite

GUARD NEWS

A review in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the regimental Cross of Honor in the 7th Regiment will be held by that command in the armory on Wednesday night, April 20. Since the adoption of this badge of honor for long and faithful service some twelve hundred members of the command have received it. The athletic association of the regiment purchased a \$500 silver shield for annual competition in baseball between certain teams from the regiment and one from the West Point cadets, the game to be played annually on the afternoon of May 20. The association has also donated \$500 for the purchase of field glasses for the officers of the regiment, and will purchase 150 baseball suits for various players, from certain teams from the regiment. Baseball practice will begin at once at Van Cortlandt Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Companies B and F have tied for the indoor baseball games, each team winning seven games. The regiment will parade on May 1 for divine service in St. George's Church.

At the annual inspection and muster of the 21 Company of the signal corps, Monday night, fifty-seven members were present and three were absent. The absentees were Lieutenants Stevens and Smith, who are away on leave, and one enlisted man. Major Robert, U. S. A., represented the War Department and Lieutenant Colonel F. T. Leigh represented the state. Mounted drills will begin to-morrow night.

A set of swimming matches is being arranged by the second company of the 13th Regiment, to be held in the armory on the night of April 18.

Captain Monson Morris of Company H, 12th Regiment, a Spanish War veteran, has resigned on account of business, much to the regret of the company. He joined the regiment as second lieutenant in Company E April 21, 1898, and served with the regiment during its entire term of service in the volunteers for the Spanish War. He has served as captain of Company E, assistant inspector of small arms practice, battalion quartermaster, commissary, and captain of Company H, Lieutenant E. K. Rogers, battalion adjutant, has presented to Battalion Sergeant Major J. P. Jamison a handsome sword as a token of esteem.

All the members of the 1st Signal Company, three officers and eighty enlisted men, were present at the annual muster for the War Department and state a few nights ago. The command was complimented upon its care of property and the clean condition of the armory. The annual music ride and games will be held in the Central Park Riding Academy on April 28.

The athletic games of the 22d Regiment, to be held in the armory to-morrow night, will have all the track athletes in training in the competitions. These include Shepard, Hyland, Snobel and other noted men. The events include runs at various distances, hurdle and bicycle races, one-mile walk, sack race, putting shot and a new intercompany relay race. There will be dancing after the games. Captain W. A. Kenny, who has been at Fort Riley, has returned. Trophies have been awarded to companies of the regiment as follows: Officers' trophy, for team of ten, in rifle shooting, to Company H; Public Schools Athletic League trophy, for excellence in cordage work, to Company M; O'Brien trophy, for intercompany relay race, to Company L; Sachs trophy, for no-vice points in athletic games, to Company F, and Athletic Association trophy, for points in athletic games, to Company A.

The riding class of Company F, 7th Regiment, will ride across country in New Jersey on April 10 with a number of members of the Essex Troop.

Contrary to expectation, quite a number of officers in the New York National Guard have made application to attend the army school at Fort Riley, Kansas. These officers represent the engineers, field artillery and cavalry.

A review of the 12th Regiment by Major General Leonard Wood, U. S. A., commander of the Department of the East, will be held in the armory on Thursday night. Company A, Captain Wadsworth, will hold a ball in the armory on Saturday night.

The 6th Regiment will be reviewed by Adjutant General Nelson H. Henry next Saturday night. The recent ball and concert of the regiment proved a great success and netted the command a handsome sum despite the fact that the expenses were heavy.

SAYS PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS WILL GO HIGHER YET

Representative Scott Sees No Mystery About Their Upward Movement.

Washington, April 2.—Two freighters, rusty men, smelling of pipes and horses, came for the bars. There were casks and boxes at the bottom of their loads that were better pinched inward and frontward toward the trucks.

The bars, with scrapers, shovels and axes and piles of tangled harness and tents, kettles and tin dishes, idle tools of railroad building, were waiting while the contractor was away in the mountains for other work. The freighters, burly persons with muddy boots and faces red as brickbats, would return the bars by twilight, and "sonny," as they called the boy watcher, let them go at that.

By 2 o'clock the freighters were on the road to Socorro, carrying the bars with them, stuck in their wagons like broom handles. The boy, discovering the fight and theft that night, followed on horseback next morning. At the first water hole, fifteen miles from Albuquerque, he found warm ashes, new oats where the man had drunk and he waits there every week. He has a goodly stock of oats and corn recently broken. The freighters were cooking their dinner at the second water hole when the galloping boy overtook them.

"I have come for the bars," he said, without dismounting. He was a quiet boy, slim and short of stature, but his eyes were the color of bullets and his jaw had an ugly aspect.

"You will wait for the bars until we return to Albuquerque," the freighters replied, giving their words the tones of finality and derision.

"I have come for the bars," the boy repeated, and, pulling them from the loads, he laid them across his saddle. He had traveled thirty miles under a New Mexican sun, and the trail, as he rode away, began to blur and the blazing light to grow uncertain.

Bobbed the first little hill, out of sight of the freighters, he tumbled upon the sand and waited for the fog to go out of his eyes and his brain to stop its giddy revolutions. Thus he rode and rested all the way back, resuing the flesh of his legs with his fingers, the shock seeming to arrest unconsciousness, but he had recovered the property he had been guarding against the day when the contractor should return from the mountains.

The story is interesting in that it helps to explain Charles Frederick Scott, of Iola, Kan., a Representative in Congress.

"Does the tariff duty on wheat, meat, eggs and other agricultural products help to make living dear in the United States?" I asked Mr. Scott the other day.

"You have asked a question," the Congressman answered, "that I have tried to answer within my own mind on a good many occasions. I thought during the wheat crisis in Chicago last year that if we were to admit Canadian grain duty free, so much would come across the border that the speculators would be driven out of business. But I found that the price of wheat is a world price. Freight added, it is about the same in Liverpool and London as in New York, Chicago and St. Louis. In American and Canadian cities of relative location—Winnipeg and Duluth, for instance, or Buffalo and Toronto—the prices of wheat at a given time have practically no variation.

"If we fixed the price in this country and for this country, the tariff of 25 cents a bushel would make a costly difference to the American consumer. But we do not establish the price; we only help to establish it, together with Russia, Canada, Argentina, and other large wheat growing countries. Nevertheless, along the Canadian border, especially from the region of the Great Lakes toward the East, there are times when flour might be cheaper, locally, if wheat were free and not taxed. The same would be true, probably, with potatoes, if our own crop were short, and with eggs when there were a large demand and a small supply.

"Prices of food products are up," Mr. Scott went on to say, "and in my opinion they will go higher in the future. There is no mystery in the upward movement of values. In the first place, there has been an enormous increase in the world's stock of gold. Money becomes cheap, like oats and pork, as the volume increases. A cheap dollar will not buy so much of anything as a dollar that is dear.

"Another cause for the high prices of food and household necessities is the increased cost of distribution. When I was

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—Caroline Frances Richardson in The Bookman.

NOW COMES THE ALL STEEL TRAIN

For a long time the need of a non-combustible train has been recognized by the various railroad companies and by the federal government, but the first all-steel train made up of non-combustible cars will be the one which the Pennsylvania Railroad will soon put in operation. This great system announced some time ago that all its cars, an iron inside which will be made of steel, and it now has some 600 all-steel coaches and is about ready to initiate the new and much safer train. Other railroad companies are preparing to follow suit.

In planning for this train the company has endeavored to build a coach which will provide the greatest possible strength, a steel framing which cannot be affected by fire, an inside which will be made of non-combustible and at the same time one which will not conduct heat or sound.—The Fathinder.

WOOD PRESERVATION.

Consul John F. Jewell, at Melbourne, submits the following report concerning a new method of treating wood which has been invented and tried with much success in Australia:

"The essential part of the Powell wood process consists in boiling the wood and allowing it to cool and absorb a saccharine solution, after which it is dried, rendering the wood thoroughly seasoned within a few days after cutting, increasing its strength and stopping all warping and shrinking. The sap in the wood is driven out and replaced by an antiseptic, owing to the saccharine solution, boiling at a higher temperature than water, thus making the wood impervious to dry rot and to the attacks of white ants and other parasites which are an ordinary bummer."—Consular Report.

FIRMNESS.

"When my wife makes up her mind," said Mr. Meekton, "there is no use of arguing with her."

"But every woman changes her opinion sometimes."

"Yes, and Henrietta is particularly resolute when she has had her mind made up to change her opinion."—Washington Star.