Funeral Customs In European Courts

American Ambassadors abroad, although representatives of a Republic, are compelled to go into deep mourning whenever the latter happens to be officially ordered by the monarch to whose court they are accredited. The sovereigns commands in the matter extend not only to the envoy himself, but to his wife, to his secretaries and attaches, and to their wives, and even to his servants, male and female, writes F. Cunliffe Owen, in New York Tribune. The directions given are of the most peremptory and explicit description, prescribing the color of the gloves of the dresses, of the coats, and of the stockings, the liveries of the domestics, and the upholstery of the smaller German courts where old Dame Etiquette's rule remains particularly strict, even black underclothes are exacted as a token of official woe on the occasion of a royal demise.

This is no mere exaggeration or flight of imagination; for when foolish old Prince Maurice of Saxe-Altenburg died the other day, the Official Gazette of the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen, in decreeing court mourning for him, expressly insisted that black underclothes should be included in the trappings of woe. And since Charlemagne Tower is not only Ambassador to the Kaiser, but also to all the petty yet independent sovereigns comprised in the federation known as the German Empire, he would have been obliged to conform to these strange sumptuary requirements had he visited Meiningen during the four weeks for which the mourning was commanded.

It may seem strange that the representatives in the Old World of such a Republic as the United States should be obliged to follow the dictates of foreign monarchs in the matter of dress, and in their official capacity should be under the necessity of donning mourning for princelets such as Maurice of Saxe-Altenburg, the most useless, blase, indolent, and insignificant scion of royalty that it is possible to imagine; a man who spent the great or part of his life in bed because he declared that there was nothing for which it was worth while getting up, and who was as completely indifferent to the American people as the latter were to him. But envoys, particularly those of ambassadorial rank, by virtue of their office form an integral part and parcel of the court of the ruler to whom they are accredited, and as such are subject to any rules and regulations which he may see fit to issue for its conduct. America's representatives at his court must defer to him in such matters in the same way as any other of their foreign diplomatic colleagues, even in the observance of the death of princes that may have been obnoxious to the United States.

Court Mourning in Russia.

In Russia, when court mourning is ordered, every official above a certain rank is compelled to have one of his apartments of his residence in the metropolis draped completely in black cloth, with the furniture upholstered in black, to clothe his servants in deep mourning, to have his carriages upholstered in black, and the coats of arms, crests, and monograms removed from the panels of the equipages. These rules extend to the foreign Ambassadors at St. Petersburg. Moreover, every vestige of the gold and silver embroideries of uniforms, as well as the epaulets, has to be shrouded with crape—a terrible expense, since the slightest drop of rain or snow has the effect of taking the dye out of the crape, and damaging the embroidery beyond repair. Many of these uniforms cost as much as six hundred dollars, and the pay attached to the offices of those entitled to wear them is not so big as to admit of their spoiling many of such uniforms in the space of a year.

Deep court mourning at St. Petersburg entails upon the women connected therewith the obligation of wearing on public occasions and state functions dresses of black flannel, cut high in the front, long and voluminous Charles VI. or "angel" sleeves falling to the ground, with inner sleeves buttoned at the wrist, white collars and "weepers" of batiste, and long court trains of black flannel, fastened, not to the shoulders but to the waist. Black caps trimmed with crape, and black veils.

All visiting cards while court mourning is in progress must have black borders, and the same rule applies to note paper and envelops; in which connection it may be pointed out that the use of black edged paper and black sealing wax for correspondence is of Italian origin, dating from the beginning of the seventeenth century. Thus, among the family papers of an ancient Scottish House there was found recently an invitation to a funeral, dated January 5, 1683, written on paper edged with black; while Addison, in his comedy of "The Drummer; or the Haunted House," which was produced in 1715 in London, makes a butler say, "Sir, I believe we have paper that is fit for your purpose; my lady's mourning paper, that is blacked at the edges." Then too Allan Ramsay, in a poem written in 1718, has the following stanza:

Thou sable bordered sheet, begone!
Harbor to thee I must refuse.
Sure thou canst welcome find from none
Who carry such ungrateful news.

In Russia, as in many of the other monarchical countries of Europe the failure to comply with the official orders for court mourning entails royal displeasure that may take the form of exclusion from court, and from all functions and entertainments at which royalty is present, and a boycott on the part of all those connected with the court and Government. If the offender happens to hold any office, he is liable to dismissal; while if it is a foreign envoy who has neglected to defer to the commands of the Lord Chamberlain, his Government will receive a hint to recall him, on the ground that he is no longer persona grata.

Stiff Rules in England.

In England, however, court mourning is statutory. There are not merely official regulations, but laws of the land, which render court mourning obligatory and provide for the severe punishment of any peer of the realm, or dignitary of the crown, who fails to obey the sumptuary behests of the monarch in connection with tokens of mourning. These were enacted several centuries ago.

The only occasion on which they have been invoked in recent times was when the late Lord Darnley, the eccentric and wrong headed of noblemen, at the time of the death of Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck, made a public announcement of the fact that he no longer intended to assume court mourning when the latter was deceased for the Lord Chamberlain

The Official Gazette in the name of the sovereign. Had the Earl merely abstained from putting himself and household in black, no one would have made any remark; but the communication of his intentions to the press called down upon his head the wrath of the authorities, who actually inaugurated steps with a view of imposing upon him through the tribunals the fine and imprisonment provided by law. It was the present King, however, then Prince of Wales, who with his customary good sense caused the proceedings to be dropped, on the ground that the offense of Lord Darnley was from a modern point of view one rather against good taste than against law.

Under ordinary circumstances, court mourning in England is ordered by the Lord Chamberlain, and varies in duration from eight days to three months, the length depending upon the importance of the royal personage whose demise is thus observed, and upon the degree of his or her relationship to the reigning house of Great Britain. The order invariably indicates a number of details, such as the color of the feathers, gloves, fans, and dresses to be worn by the women, as well as directions of an analogous character for the official mourning of the men; and the term is usually divided into two parts, during the second half of which the mourning is lightened.

In the case of the death of the sovereign, or of the monarch's consort, or of the heir apparent, the order of the Lord Chamberlain is supplemented by a command for general mourning issued by the Earl Marshal of the Realm, namely, the Duke of Norfolk, in the name of the crown; and although no penalties are provided for failure to obey, yet the penalties are provided for failure to obey, yet the people at large invariably make a point of complying with the edict. During the six months that followed the death of Queen Victoria, there was scarcely a man, woman, or child in the land, from the richest to the poorest, who did not don some token of sorrow for her loss.

Formerly court mourning in England included the display of hatchments. The hatchment consists of a large black frame, inclosing a black ground, upon which were painted the arms and crest of its owner, and it was hung lozenge fashion on the facade of his house, generally midway between the second and third story, as near as possible to the center of the building. Sometimes the black background was powdered with drops of gold, to represent tears, and adorned with skulls and crossbones at the corners. Up to the beginning of the Victorian era no one was entitled, either by usage or by etiquette, to an escutcheon of this kind on the front of his mansion unless his ancestors on each side for four generations back possessed armorial rights. But when London was invaded by all those parvenus who now occupy such a conspicuous and influential position in English society, and with disregard for custom began to display on every pretext hatchments adorned with the most preposterous coats of arms, on which the quarterings were conspicuous only by their absence, the fashion degenerated into vulgarity and ridicule, and today is almost entirely abandoned.

Queer Funeral Customs.

One of the queerest features in connection with this court mourning abroad is the species of grim comedy, which provides that a royal personage shall be regarded as alive until finally laid in the tomb. It is an etiquette which belongs to a bygone age, and savors of something akin to mockery. Thus, it is not until the Lord Chamberlain breaks his wand of office over the coffin of his royal master or mistress as it is being lowered into the vault or tomb, that he and all the members of the household are relieved of their duties; and at nearly every European court it is customary to this day for the illustrious dead to hold a sort of levee or reception just before their interment, when all the great officers of state and members of the court pass one by one before the corpse, bowing low, and kissing its cold and clammy hand.

Even still more strange are the ceremonies that used to be enforced in France when that country was still subject to a monarchical regime. During the entire forty days that the body of the sovereign lay in state in the Cathedral of Saint Denis, the court ceremonies were carried on within the abbey as though the monarch or prince still lived; the royal table would be set every night in the refectory, and the Grand Master of the Ceremonies, when dinner was brought in, would proceed in full uniform to the chancel of the church, where the corpse lay rigid and cold, and with a low obeisance would exclaim, "Sire, the dinner is served, according to Your Majesty's order."

Then the Chamberlain standing on duty beside the corpse, would respond with great dignity, "His Majesty has been pleased to dine already, and desires to remain undisturbed." Whereupon the Master of Ceremonies would back out, with the three customary low obeisances to the dead, and would order the meal to be taken away.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that the admission of the Empire of Japan into the concert of Great Powers has resulted in a source of considerable embarrassment to the various royal families of Europe, just in connection with the question of mourning. The court of Tokio is extremely punctilious about going into mourning on the occasion of the death of any foreign sovereign or royal personage; in fact, it has been known to go into mourning for European royalties as many as eight times in one year. When, however, the Mikado's mother died sometime ago, and her demise was officially notified to the various foreign Governments by the Japanese Ambassadors, who added that "Her Majesty has passed away after receiving the last sacraments of the Shinto faith," no notice was taken thereof, the European courts taking the ground that as long as a monarch went in openly for polygamy, maintaining a harem, as do the rulers of China, of Turkey, of Persia, of Egypt, and of Morocco, they cannot expect to be treated on the same social footing as Christian rulers of the West.

England's relations with Japan, however, have become such that she can no longer afford to affront her by any neglect of such courtesies, and there is no doubt that other European sovereigns will follow suit when King Edward next has occasion to order through his Lord Chamberlain in the London Official Gazette court mourning for some member of the imperial family of Japan who has passed away "furnished with the last rites" of that mysterious Shinto faith, which is altogether beyond the comprehension of white men and Christians.

PEOPLE SHOULD TRY THIS MIXTURE NOW

Home Made Remedy Which Acts Promptly on Kidneys and Bladder.

Cut this out and put in some safe place, for it is valuable and worth more than anything else in the world if you should have an attack of rheumatism or bladder trouble or any derangement of the kidneys whatever.

The prescription is simple, and can be made up by any one at home. The ingredients can be had at any good prescription pharmacy and all that is necessary is to shake them well in a bottle.

Here it is: Fluid extract dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Kargon, one ounce; compound syrup of sarsaparilla, three ounces.

Take a teaspoonful after each meal and at bedtime. A few doses is said to relieve almost any case of bladder trouble, frequent urination, pain and scalding, weakness and backache, pain above the kidneys, etc. It is now claimed to be the method of curing chronic rheumatism, because of its direct and positive action upon the eliminative tissues of the kidneys. It cleanses these sponge-like organs and gives them life and power to sift and strain the poisonous waste matter and uric acid from the blood relieving the worst forms of rheumatism and kidney and bladder troubles. The extract dandelion acts upon the stomach and liver and is used also extensively for relieving constipation and indigestion. Compound sarsaparilla cleans and enriches the blood.

As you or anyone of your family, especially the old folks, may be attacked at any time it would be wise to cut this out and save it.

A well-known local druggist is authority that this prescription is safe to use at any time.

Mix it yourself.

DUTCH TEARS.

Peculiar Qualities of These Little Globules of Glass.

"It is a great wonder to me," said an old chemist, "why more boys do not take up chemical experiments as an amusement. Why, I can do things with the common materials of everyday life which really seem to be more magical to the uninitiated than any of the wonders that are ordinarily performed by magicians on the public stage. Some of them are so simple that by carrying them out at a parlor entertainment a bright boy could achieve the reputation of a magician. Now, there are these curious little bubbles of glass known variously as 'Prince Rupert's drops' and as 'Dutch tears.' Apparently they are merely little globules of glass with elongated tails made by heating a small glass rod in a flame and allowing the molten drops to fall into water. After they have cooled you may pound the thick part with a hammer or mallet, yet you cannot break them. On the other hand, if you break a little piece off their tails or touch any part of them with a quartz crystal they will disappear into the surrounding atmosphere quicker than snow will melt on a hot fire. To the person who doesn't know how this has happened the performance is so astonishing as to seem uncanny.—London Globe.

SHAPED ALMOST ALIKE.

Striking Similiarity in Contour Between Italy and New Zealand.

Saving only for the fact that one is a peninsula and the other a group of islands by far the most striking similarity in contour exists between Italy and New Zealand. The resemblance of each of them to a high heeled Wellington boot is almost perfect. Cape dell' Armi and Cape Reinga form the toes of the two boots. The bay of Plenty, in New Zealand, and the gulf of Taranto, in Italy, form the instep, while Cape Runaway and Cape Santa Maria di Leuco are respectively the points of the heels. The general shape of the calf of the leg is also the same and so is the curve outward to the somewhat gouty looking toe.

The point of dissimilarity is of course the separation of North and South islands into two. It is easy, however, to see that if these two islands were somewhat raised they would become one and would then even more resemble the Italian peninsula than they do now. A comparison of the islands of Ireland and Sardinia will also show several points of resemblance, but this is nothing like so striking as it is in the case of the two widely separated portions of the world above mentioned.

Bumped His Pride.

There is a young man in Boston who can actually trace his family back two generations. His one failing is a desire to be thought a descendant of one of "the old families," and his studio—he says he is an artist—contains a number of heirlooms. One thing in which he takes particular pride is a Continental uniform complete in every detail, with flintlock and powder horn. He was showing this to a young lady the other day. "My great-grandfather wore this suit when he gave his life to his country during the brave days of the Revolution," he said. The young lady inspected the uniform carefully, but could find neither bullet hole nor saber cut. She turned to him, with a charming smile. "Oh, was the poor old gentleman drowned?" she asked.—Argonaut.

A Generous Joker.

Could you have been with me on top of one of the old horse drawn busses on a certain afternoon you would have seen a middle aged gentleman, slightly the worse for wine, take a couple of half sovereigns from his purse. Before him sat two little Eton boys in short jackets and diminutive beaver hats. With much chuckling, the gentleman, leaning forward, dropped his half sovereigns down their backs, next their shirts, and it would have done your heart good to have seen the expressions on the countenances of those boys alter from dismay as the cold coins slipped down their spines to wonder and delight as, after much wriggling, each lad extracted the money from the vicinity of his sock.—Aubrey Lanston in Bohemian.

Also His Train, Perhaps.

"Hey, mister!" yelled the urchin, as Subbubs rushed by with his arms full of bundles.

"What is it?" asked the nervous commuter, stopping to examine his bundles; "what have I lost?"

"About two minutes," replied the boy, dodging out of the way.—Philadelphia Press.

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White grounds, with neat black dots and checks; plain tailored effects, lined; a popular Fall Waist, all sizes.
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Six yards in a box.
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Thomson's Glove Fitting Corsets
New, high bust models, made in heavy Jean and Coutil, short, medium or long hip, with hose supporter attachments.
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For children, made extra strong; buttons taped on a well made and serviceable garment.
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Nicely finished, with full ruffle; full length and width; plain centers; striped and figured designs.
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Tapestry Table Covers
Two yards square; heavy fringe all around pretty oriental designs.
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Cotton Blankets
White or grey, with fancy colored borders, full size.
62 1-2c, 75c to $2.00 a Pair

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Wide assortment of leathers; gun metal or gold trimmings.
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Made of extra good quality Muslin; handsomely trimmed in Embroidery and Lace.
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Just out—the latest novelty for children. Each dog muzzled, leather chain attached to collar; movable limbs. Can be placed in any position.
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Blue and green and brown and green, combination suitable for Coat Suits, 56-inches wide; neat novelty effects.
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Many women suffer in silence and drift along from bad to worse, knowing well that they ought to have immediate assistance.

How many women do you know who are perfectly well and strong?

The cause may be easily traced to some feminine derangement which manifests itself in depression of spirits, reluctance to go anywhere or do anything, backache, dragging sensations, flatulency, nervousness, and sleeplessness.

These symptoms are but warnings that there is danger ahead, and unless heeded, a life of suffering or a serious operation is the inevitable result. The best remedy for all these symptoms is

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made from native roots and herbs. No other medicine in the country has received such widespread and unqualified endorsement. No other medicine has such a record of cures of female ills.

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Mrs. Pinkham's Standing Invitation to Women

Women suffering from any form of female weakness are invited to write Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass. Her advice is free.

IN THE SOUTHLAND.

Mrs. J. S. Herren of Atlanta was handling a cabbage in getting ready for dinner when a little snake emerged from the leaves. A vigorous slash of the kitchen knife settled his business.

The Mississippi State Prison Trustees run a cotton plantation with convict labor, and they have just sold 30 bales of cotton at 12 1-2 cents a pound and 150 bales at 20 cents, realizing over $30,000 in all.

A weasel was found one morning and killed in the parlor of Mr. Frank Vansant's house, near Boydton, Va. It is known to have attacked the henhouse the night before, but what attracted it to the parlor is a mystery.

Dr. W. C. McMillan, a druggist of Columbia, S. C., has a great nature story to tell. In a show window he had a ground hog, three small alligators, a big rattlesnake, two small rattlesnakes and a small spreading adder. A dozen white mice were added to the collection, and instead of being eaten by the snakes, they killed and ate the two small rattlers and the adder.

Near Sumter, S. C., Warren Smart (colored) belied his name by going to sleep on the railroad track, and the coroner's jury found that the result was due to his own carelessness.

A man at Tullahoma, Tenn., recently killed a long rattlesnake, and announces that he will have a fine belt made from the hide for presentation to the next Democratic President. Tennessee papers are remarking that he may have to wait a weary while.

Hoboes, tramps and itinerants of all descriptions are listening to the call of the Sunny South, now that winter is coming on, and they are moving by the hundred to where the climes are warmer and the winds are not so bitter.

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