

Turkish Etiquette and Dinner Customs.

On occasions of ceremony, writes a traveler in Turkey, it is the custom for the slaves to place themselves one on each side of the new arrival, and, thus carefully supported from the elbow, the Mussulman lady allows herself to be slowly and laboriously escorted upward.

To a "Frank" this constrained movement is, to say the least of it, unpleasant; but as a mark of great attention it has to be endured, and the slight infliction is soon ended, the reception rooms of the family being rarely higher than the first floor.

A slave raising a heavy curtain of camel's hair embroidered with gold, we find Zehra Khamun waiting to bid us welcome, and to assist a hurried change of dress; for the sunset signal is now rolling over Stamboul from each of its numerous batteries, the guests and children are already seated upon a hand; a slim Circassian girl waits to pour water over the hands from a ewer of richly ornamented silver, while another holds the soft towel embroidered with gold thread which we take with us to the table, and in a few minutes we are in the places of honor reserved for the strange ladies.

Two tables had been arranged on the main floor of the "sofa" (the central hall). They are formed of discs of burnished brass, about four feet in diameter, placed on a low stool; beneath this is spread a large square, which is often of silk woven with gold threads, and soft cushions are laid around it. In some rich houses these dining-disks, called "tepesy," are made of solid silver.

An Eastern woman taking her place at the "tepesy" (scarcely a foot and a half above the ground) sinks upon her cushion in the most graceful manner imaginable, but the feet is by no means so easy of accomplishment by a "Frank." It is necessary to be so placed as to have the right arm free to reach with ease the disk placed in the center of the table; you endeavor, perhaps, to kneel in an easy way, but the cushion is soft and yielding, and there is danger of an unexpected over-balance amongst the saucers of pickle and sweetmeat; you sit back, but your spoon makes vague and useless advances toward the distant soup-bowl; you turn sideways, to find that you are scarcely showing due politeness to the mistress of the house, upon whom you have deliberately turned your back. It is bewildering. At length a pitying "calfa" brings forward a little stool, and with infinite precaution your feet are slipped beneath the low tray, and there they are condemned to remain, immovable until the end of the repast, as an ill-advised movement might easily overturn the banquet. It is needless to expatiate on the torture which is sometimes thus silently endured, but it is undeniable that the ease of position conferred by prosaic tables and chairs more than counterbalances the picturesque effect and Oriental charm of crouching round a Turkish "tepesy." This method of dining almost on the ground and of eating with the fingers is rarely now adopted, all "civilized" Oriental families taking kindly to our Western customs in this respect; but even the most Europeanized amongst them return, during the month of Ramadan, to the primitive habits of their ancestors.

The Largest Snake in America.

One of the largest snakes on record was recently killed in Louisiana, according to the Shreveport Times, which says: We were yesterday informed by Mr. Smith, living on Quappaw bayou, that while he and his son William, aged about thirteen years, were out in the woods on Monday afternoon last, driving up their cattle, their attention was attracted by the bleating of a calf some distance from them. Thinking probably the poor animal had bogged, they started to its assistance. They had gone only a short distance down the bayou when they discovered a yearling in the coils of a huge snake, the body of which was suspended from the limb of a black gum tree about twenty feet from the ground, and which projected from the bank immediately over the water. Mr. Smith and his son were almost terror-stricken at the sight, and stood speechless for several moments, unconsciously watching the movement of the huge reptile as he entwined himself around the already dead body of the yearling, and at every coil of the snake they could hear the bones of the calf crack. After coiling itself around the lifeless form of the yearling and crushing every bone in its body, the serpent let loose its hold from the tree and coiled down along the side of its victim and began licking it all over, preparatory, it is supposed, to swallowing it. About this time Mr. Smith recovered his senses, and, after watching the monster snake open its cavernous mouth several times, he fired on it with his rifle, striking it near the head, and was quickly followed by his son, who discharged a double-barrel gun loaded with buckshot. Both reloaded as quick as possible and again fired on his snakehead. In the meantime the reptile had coiled itself into a huge mass, and was making a hissing sound that could be heard fully 100 yards, and was protruding his forked tongue several feet. After discharging about a dozen volleys each, Mr. Smith and his son succeeded in despatching the monster of the largest snakes ever seen in Louisiana, and, probably, North America. It measured thirty-one feet in length, and the body measured, ten feet from the head, thirty inches in circumference, and about the center of the body about forty-two inches. It has a regular succession of spots, black and yellow, alternating, extending from its head to its tail, while either side is a deep purple. Mr. Smith has no idea what kind of a snake it is, but thinks it must be of the boa-constrictor species. No doubt this snake has for many years inhabited that section of the country, and depredated upon the young calves and animals that came within its reach. The skin of this huge snake has been preserved, and will be sent to Shreveport and put on exhibition.

White Savages and Red.

Gen. Sheridan relates an incident that occurred in 1855—a battle between the Nez Percés and Blackfoot Indians. The Chicago Times prints the following Indian stories as related by Gen. Sheridan: It was away back in 1856. The Yakimas, who were just then in a state of insurrection, had come to the Cascades of Columbia and killed a number of men and women, and mutilated the remains. I was ordered with my company to the Cascades. An Indian named Spencer, a Chinook, who was a consistent friend of the whites, was at that time rendering good service as a guide, and his family, consisting of eight persons, including several women and children, started to come through the woods to my camp, but failing to arrive at the time they were expected, I sent a detail of soldiers to search for them. The whole family had been followed into the timber by white villains and murdered. The manner of their murder was unique in its atrocity. Evidently they

Susie and the Prairie Fire.

Just at the meeting-place of a wide prairie and a deep forest, stood, many years ago, a little log house. Within dwelt a girl by the name of Susie. She did not live alone, for the house was full with her parents and old brothers and sisters. But my story is of her, the youngest and the pet of all. It would take long to tell the city girls of to-day how Susie lived and knew what it was to be happy.

When the log house had stood in its place about three years, and had been clasped and covered by the clinging arms of the forest vines, Susie noticed one afternoon a great commotion in the household. The neighbors who lived nearest came and talked to her father out in the meadow with hurried, excited voices. Her brothers hastened to put on their heavy boots, muffled their faces, and the men hurried off together to the prairie—how far she could not see in the gathering darkness. Soon after, the wind, which came in slight puffs from the direction in which they had gone, brought with it the smell of smoke.

"Say, mamma, where has papa gone, and what makes everybody look so frightened?" said Susie, pressing close to her mother's side with the sobs coming in her voice.

"No, dear, I hope not. It is a long way off, and the men will burn some of the grass, not far from the fields, so that when the big fire comes there it will stop, because there will be nothing for it to burn."

Then her mother hurried away to see that coffee was made and food prepared for the men who would be up all night. Susie stood at the door in the darkness and looked toward the south, where she saw, far away, a dull red gleam, which sometimes flashed up brightly, but more faintly, at that time. She was really frightened, and she called her father home. Out here lay her father's corn fields, and there came the dreadful fire, ready to devour them.

Then a thought flashed into her mind. Susie was a courageous little girl, and had energy enough for two. Perhaps she might help put out the fire. Her mother and sister were too busy to notice her movements. Without pausing to think what mamma might wish her to do, she ran through the door-yard and was soon making her way across the meadow toward the cornfield. At last she reached the end of the field and looked out on the broken prairie. Stretching out of sight on the prairie was a red line of flame rising toward the sky, and covering it with a dense cloud of smoke. The sparks flew in every direction, and many, very many, were brought by occasional puffs of wind near to where she stood. But she soon made a discovery which caused her to forget the distant fire. Some sparks had lit in the dry grass by the rail fence not far away. The grass had kindled and the blaze was spreading and beginning to curl around the rails, and just on the other side was her father's cornfield. It was but the work of a moment to find a stout stick, and then Susie's labor began. How intently she beat the grass and stamped on it with her little shoes! She soon found that the matter was really catching, and the flames, and though her feet and hands were hot and her arms ached, she kept on until not one spark was left, and only the burnt grass and slightly blackened rails were left to show what Susie had done.

"But, oh! I'm so tired," she said. "I wish I could find papa." Her tired limbs soon gave out, and she sank down with sobs which would come into her throat. Alone and in the dark and tired out, no wonder the tears fell as she lay on the grass, until her eyes grew less and sleep shut her eyelids down.

After a while, when the fire had been extinguished, her father reached home to find the house in commotion. "Oh, father, I have you seen Susie?" said his wife, coming to him with terror in her face.

"Susie! is she gone?" he said, hoarsely, for he was very tired.

"She is lost! We have searched the whole place and called and called, but we can't find her anywhere."

"Mother," said the oldest daughter, "might she not have followed father to the fields?"

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Dear Sir—Having used great benefit from the use of Peruvian Syrup, I am willing to add my testimony to the thousands of others who have found relief from the same. I was taken by dyspepsia, and was confined in Salisbury and other Southern prisons several months, and became so much emaciated in health and strength as to be unable to walk. I was a fit subject for a Northern hospital, where I remained some two months and then came home. My physician recommended and procured for me several bottles of Peruvian Syrup, which I continued to use for several weeks, and found my health restored and my weight increased from ninety pounds to one hundred and fifty; my usual weight, and I am cheerfully recommending it in all cases of weakness and debility of the system, whether arising from an impure state of the blood, dyspepsia, or almost any other cause, believing it will in most cases give entire satisfaction.

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