

The Pioneer Press.

"HERE SHALL THE PRESS, THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS MAINTAIN, UNAWED BY INFLUENCE AND UNBRIBED BY GAIN"

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Oriental Mannerisms

We owe to a popular writer, says Mr. Sidney Whitman in "Turkish Memories," the assertion that there is something fundamentally different in character between the East and the West, which makes mutual understanding difficult and assimilation impossible. The English traveler who is inclined to accept this axiom may begin to detect the Eastern flavor of things as soon as he leaves the frontier of the German Empire behind him and passes through the Austro-Hungarian monarchy on his way to Constantinople.

Should you arrive at Vienna on a Saturday, you will have to wait these twenty-four hours if you intend to take the Orient Express to Constantinople, for it leaves Vienna on Sunday evening, and even in that short time you may feel a subtle change in the atmosphere of life. You ask a sedate-looking official in the bureau of your hotel up to what o'clock on Sunday morning the shops in the town remain open, as you want to purchase a few traveling necessities. "Until midday, sir," in the decisive reply. Instinctively, warned by past experience, you turn to the hail porter, who usually embodies the brain power of a Viennese hotel, and in order to make sure, you put the same question to him. The shops are not open at all on Sundays," is his reply, and so indeed it turns out to be.

You stroll toward the Leopoldstadt with the intention of taking luncheon at the old "Goldness Lamm," now called the Hotel National, long renowned as the hostelry patronized by European crowned heads as far back as the Vienna Congress of 1815. You grip the brass handle of a glass door on which the inviting word "Entree" is affixed in large white enameled letters. You tug at it in vain, and are ultimately warned off by a man signaling frantically from the inside that it is not a door at all, but only the window of an apartment—and that the real entrance to the hotel is a few yards to the left. You now recollect that when you were there last—some seven years previously—that word "Entree" was already there, and that you and doubtless many others ever since—were warned off; but the proprietor has not apparently thought it worth while to erase the misleading letters.

It is still Sunday, and you wish to post a registered letter. That can be done only at the Central Post Office during certain hours of the afternoon. You drive there, holding the letter in readiness, together with a krone to pay the registration fee, and wait your turn patiently. For without patience, that supposedly Christian virtue (which by the way I subsequently acquired myself and discovered to be of Mohammedan origin), it is of little use starting on a journey to the East. At last your turn comes,

and you patiently watch the registering clerk, after slowly copying the address of your letter into a book, retire to the back of his capacious office. You notice that he is in earnest consultation with a colleague. At last he comes forward with an air of embarrassment and explains apologetically that he is in a "difficulty" as to providing the change out of the small coin you have handed him. Finally he asks whether you would mind accepting a postage stamp of the value of ten heller (one penny) in part discharge of the sum due you.

All this happens within twenty-four hours! You know now that you are on your way to the East, where a minimum value of time and an element of fiction mixed up with every action or statement of fact constitute two of the many differences between the easy-going East and the matter-of-fact West.—The Youth's Companion.

EMPLOYEE CANNOT WAIVE DAMAGES.

Philadelphia, Pa. — In sustaining, recently, the verdict of \$14,000 obtained by Arthur H. Murray, formerly a Pullman porter, against the Reading Railway, as damages for personal injuries sustained, the Supreme Court made several important rulings on the right of an employee to be safely carried to his destination the same as a regular passenger on a train. The claim of Murray has been vigorously fought by the railway company and as a last resort it produced the contract of employment between the plaintiff and the Pullman Company, which contained a waiver of rights to recover damages in the event of an accident.

The accident occurred on November 4, 1911, when a train running between Philadelphia and Williamsport, came to a stop at Mahanoy Junction. Murray was working on the last car. He alleged that the stopping of the train, which was going at the rate of forty miles an hour, was so sudden and violent that he was hurled a distance, striking with his head. His spine was injured and paralysis resulted. He has since been confined to an invalid's chair.

Sustaining Judge Patterson's rulings, Justice Potter decided that the waiver clause in the contract of employment of a Pullman porter is not available as a defense in a suit for damages. He also upholds the lower court for submitting to the jury the question of the alleged negligence of the engineer in bringing the train to a sudden halt.

FACTS WORTH KNOWING.

The highest altitude in the United States proper is Mt. Whitney, State of California, 14,898 feet; Mt. McKinley, Alaska, rises to an altitude of 20,300 feet; Mt. Massive, Colorado, and Mt. Ranier, Washington, rise to a height of 14,424 and 14,526 feet, respectively. The highest place on the earth is Mt. Everest, Himalayas, 29,000 feet.

The wise man is he who attends to his own business.

Mother and Heirs Get \$80,000!

Memphis, Tenn.—The courts have decided that Betty Hicks and her eight children should have the \$80,000 left by the white father of the children. Betty Hicks was the practical slave of the white man as well as his common-law wife and it was proven that the children were all his without a doubt.

The mother and children are densely ignorant—not even comprehending the contest over the will nor what the decision giving them \$80,000 means. When found they were working in fields in overalls and male attire the girls never having seen a petticoat.

Judge Barton declared, "the only decent thing this social outcast, the white father, ever did was when he left his estate to his common-law wife and the children of her body."

It is feared that such ignorant people, coming utterly unprepared into possession of such great wealth will be the victims of every schemer. The Scimitar (white) of Memphis says:

"The jumpers and overalls should be taken from them; they should be dressed decently and taken out of the cotton patch and sent to school, where they may derive the belated benefits accruing from their father's wealth, which their labor largely helped to accumulate and to which they are entitled by every rule of right and reason. If these helpless people are to be abandoned by the courts and the constituted authorities, and if outsiders are permitted to rob them, it will be a permanent stigma and an indelible stain on our civilization, and a convincing proof that we are not willing or able to protect the weak against the strong, and the ignorant against the cunning and conscienceless."—Louisville News.

NASHVILLE'S MAYOR IS OPPOSED TO SEGREGATION.

Expressing opposition to the Negro segregation bill now pending in the legislature, Mayor Howze issued the following statement:

"About twelve months ago the city commission had the city attorney render an opinion on this question. Mr. Ewing declared at that time that in his opinion, such a bill would be unconstitutional, whether passed by the commission or the state legislature. That opinion was accepted by the commission and no further action was taken on the matter.

"For five years that I have been mayor of Nashville, it has always been my endeavor to have the races in this city live together in peace and to work harmoniously. I have been opposed to any such move now.

"When the question of locating the publishing house of one of the religious bodies of the Negroes was up, I advised a delegation of colored men that it would be better to put this in a part of the city where no ill-feeling would be generated.

They followed my advice in this matter quickly and quietly.

"In the election for the present legislature a delegation from the Negro board of trade of this city called on me and asked if the ticket I supported would favor this segregation bill if elected. I told them that I was opposed to such legislation and that if it came before the legislature I would make known that opposition. I have never gone back on a promise, and I intend to carry out this one.

"I am opposed to this bill in every way and will do what I can to fight it."—Nashville American.

A Tragic Wedding Ring.

A tragic story of a forgotten wedding ring is told in the "Lives of the Lindsays." He should have been at church when Colin Lindsay, the young Earl of Balcarras, was quietly eating his breakfast in nightgown and slippers. Reminded that Mauritia of Nassau was waiting for him at the altar, he hurried to church, but forgot the ring. A friend present gave him one, which he, without looking at, placed on the bride's finger. After the ceremony was over the countess glanced at her hand and beheld a grinning death's head on her ring. She fainted away, and the omen made such an impression on her that on recovering she declared she was destined to die within a year, a presentiment that probably brought about its own fulfillment, for in a few months the careless Colin was a widower.

Both of One Mind.

Mrs. Stormyweather, who had been engaged in a somewhat prolonged and heated dialogue with her husband, beat a dignified retreat so soon as she found she was getting the worst of the argument and turned her attention to culinary matters as a balm for her ruffled soul.

"Jane," she said, "I want you to put on your things at once and go out and see if you can get me a plaice."

"Yes'm," replied Jane, with alacrity. "And while I'm about it I may as well look for one for myself, too, for I'm blest if I can stand the master any more than you."—London Mirror.

Remorse.

A legal journal tells of a trial in which the following remorseful letter appeared in evidence:

"Mr. Bidwell: Dear Sir—This is what I never expect to come to. But it is trouble, and no one to help me out. So I want you to have this young woman buried. But mee, let me lay top of ground, for the Turkey Buzzards to eat, for I have did rong. Joseph Bradley."

What Landed Him There.

"My good man, what are you in prison for?"

"My convictions."

"Your convictions?"

"Yes, mum. If the jury had acquitted me I wouldn't be here."—Detroit Free Press.

A cruel story runs on wheels, and every hand oils the wheels as they run.—Ouida.

HIS HEART IN RIGHT PLACE.

When Representative Campbell, of Kansas, recently said, on the floor of Congress, in the presence of a packed house, that his children "attended a mixed school in Pittsburg, Kansas, his home town," and that he himself "worshiped with Negroes, and that further he was willing and would permit the colored man to exercise his political rights under the constitution," he dealt his democratic opponents, including the Tillmans, Vardamans and Hoke Smiths, a solar plexus blow, as it were. With such friends as Representative Campbell, in official station, especially in Congress, the Negroes in America will not perish from the earth.

Pastor Russell Tells of "Hell."

Pastor Russell appeared at Emery Auditorium, Thursday night. A large and intelligent audience greeted him. No color line was drawn, and in consequence, representative colored people were scattered promiscuously through the audience. His sermon of two and a half hours was a wonderful exhibition of logic, Biblical knowledge and eloquence. He does not believe that any educated minister really believes in the doctrine of hell, as an abode for eternal damnation, and he believes that God our Creator is a kind, lovable Being, instead of a monster of cruelty, as some preachers would have us believe. Dr. Russell's pamphlet on Hell, is most interesting, and in it he shows the true meaning of the word, namely a grave rather than a pit filled with fire and brimstone to torture those souls who have wandered from the straight and narrow path. His books on the Bible are most interesting, and his knowledge of that sacred volume is wonderful. He plainly points out the superstitions and ignorance and inconsistencies of some preachers, teachers, and followers of the Christian religion and then makes a masterly and logical appeal for common sense, for reason, in our religious worship and study of God's word. Pastor Russell, for forty years, predicted and named the date for the present great war that is now devastating Europe.—Cincinnati Union, W. P. Dabney, Editor.

CATHOLIC GAINS.

The Official Catholic Directory shows that the Roman Catholic Church has increased in numbers a quarter of a million in the last year. It also shows a gain of nearly four million in the past ten years and more than seven million in the past twenty years.

For our part, we should like to see more of the Catholic spirit instilled into our great Protestant and other denominations. The Catholic Church in this country is that religious body in which wealth, social distinction, class and race count for the least. The humblest, poorest and most ignorant immigrant entering New York can go up into the great Cathedral on 5th ave., and feel that he is welcome, and the truth is, he is welcome. Any one in such circumstances would hesitate for some time before entering a rich Protestant church.

It is almost impossible to think of a Catholic priest preaching race discrimination or urging his congregation to go out and lynch somebody.

If all the great Christian organizations in this country had the religious and moral courage to openly disapprove the injustice, lawlessness and cruelty which the Negro has to suffer, those sins and crimes would soon be stopped.

But they haven't got it.—New York Age.