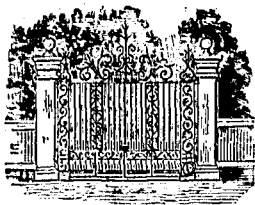


Outside the Gates.

BAIRAM.



TO-DAY being the 1st Chawal, 1317—according to the Mahomedan Calendar, and consequently the Feast of the lesser Bairam—all Cairo has been out from an early hour jubilating over the decease of Ramadan that finished last night, for during that lugubrious month all good Mahomedans are in a precarious temper owing to the fact that it is incumbent on them to fast from sunrise to sunset, and this is trying, even to them. What a Briton's state of mind would be under such circumstances had better not be inquired into.

Forgetting all by-gones and bearing no malice for past discomforts, the Egyptians are moving round gaily, mostly in clean galabeahs and headcloths, and—where it can be afforded—in bran new, bright red or yellow slippers; it is about the shoeing that the native chiefly fails.

It was unusually cold and raw this morning, at a little after eight o'clock, when the Khedive and Khediviah processed through the town to the Abdin Palace (where the receptions began as early as 9.15 a.m.), to the banging and clashing of the Egyptian band and the barbarous wails of the bagpipes of the Seaforth Highlanders, who followed on. Surging around all was the parti-coloured crowd, more brilliant than any rainbow, and further touched up by the recent innovation of wearing a gaudy paper fitting over the fez—this seems to have caught on, and being instinct with a family likeness to 'Arry's paper decorations on Bank Holiday, it gives a homelike touch that is not without its effect on an insular heart.

From then till sunset the streets have been alive with vehicles of every description, conveying all officials, civil or military—the men to the Khedive's side the ladies to the Khediviah's—dowager and present, the native ladies leading off from 9.15 to 11, when there was a pause until 3 o'clock, when the turn of the English, American and other nationalities came. The native ladies certainly look immensely *chic* as they pass in their Parisian broughams, with a pair of magnificent gauzy "sayces" running before to clear the way. There is a very stately style about these dimly-seen reclining figures, wrapped in their dark silk overdress, and lightly veiled with the white muslin double handkerchief which shows off a fine pair of eyes and suggests an amount of beauty that is seldom the fact.

This afternoon the carriages have been open ones, and fitted with the newest toilettes, more in accordance with the present run of things in Egypt, and curiously enough, more in accord with ancient Egypt also, for all this veiling and seclusion of women was not introduced till recent centuries—one might say today, as time counts in Egypt—for in the palmy times of this country there was none of it—the decadence of the country is largely owing to the exclusion of women from rightful liberty, and now, with the rising fortunes of Egypt and the regeneration that has begun, the end of this tyranny is in view.

EMILY CRAWFORD.

WOMEN.

WE learn from the President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe, that there is to be a "Palais de la Femme" at the World's Fair in Paris this year. The building has been planned by M. Pontremoli, and will be situated between Eiffel's Tower and the Jena Bridge. It is to be a sort of "omnium gatherum," and will afford opportunities of amusement, instruction, entertainment, and shopping. Here also ladies visiting the exhibition can breakfast, lunch and dine. During the month of June various Congresses of women distinguished for their work on philanthropic, educational, scientific, religious, and patriotic lines, will be held at Paris, and on June 30th the General Federation of Women's Clubs will give a Banquet, to which will be invited as many of the representative women of foreign countries as can be accommodated. We are glad that so representative a body as the Federation of Women's Clubs are taking an active part in the Exhibition.

At the forthcoming Paris Exhibition there will be a library of books written by women of every nationality. The library will be a self-supporting institution, and authors who are invited to send in their works are required to send an admission fee of five francs for each volume. Application should be made to the Siège Social, Palais de la Femme, 24, Rue Drouot, Paris.

The most recent development in the way of clubs is one for poultry owned by women, and it is to be conducted on lines similar to those which have proved so successful in the case of the Ladies' Kennel Association. The subscription is to be one guinea per annum, and Mrs. E. Stennard Robinson, who has had and still has so much to do in connection with dog shows, clubs, and other matters canine, is the secretary.

Much of the money expended in this country as secret service money is paid to women who as ordinary tourists are allowed to take snap-shots of fortresses which no man would be permitted to do. It is stated that three fourths of the sketches and plans of foreign fortifications in the possession of this country have been obtained by women. It is also worthy of note that every foreign country has its women spies in this country, and they are often people in very high position and well received in society.

The Women's Movement for stopping the war, organised by Mrs. Sheldon Amos and Mrs. Cobden Unwin is getting to work, and a manifesto, signed by representative women, is being issued, specially addressed to women. Amongst those whose names are appended are Mrs. Bright McLaren, Miss P. H. Peckover, Mrs. Bright Clarke, Mrs. Margaret Tanner, the Misses Priestman, Mrs. Spence Watson, the Misses Sturge, Miss Ruth Homan, Mrs. Passmore Edwards, Miss Annie Leigh Browne, Mrs. Kingsley, and the secretary, Mrs. Cobden Unwin.

Mr. Cronwright Schreiner, the husband of Olive Schreiner, is at present in this country. It is understood that he has brought with him the manuscript of a book on South Africa by his wife, which will shortly be published.

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