

LEGENDS OF LADIES.

A DISCUSSION OF THE INFLUENCE OF BEAUTY ON THE TENDER PASSION.

Did the Devil Ever Choke the Life Out of a Beautiful Woman?—A Story Which is Very Lurid, to Say the Least.—A Homely Woman Seen Through Love's Eyes.

A discussion interesting to the ladies is running through the columns of the French papers. Briefly stated, the question is whether or not beauty has anything to do with the kindling of the tender passion. Handsome women say yes; homely ones, or, to be more correct, the beautiful, say no.

In proof of the soundness of their position, which respects the plank of affection for loveliness only, the latter have unearthed the misty old legend of the loves of Leilo and Megnon.

When the king of Persia heard of the smitten young man, he sent for him and asked him how it was that he had become so despatchly sooty.

"In order to understand that," replied Megnon, "you would have to see my love."

"Well," said the king, "let's see the woman."

Leilo was brought before him. She was redheaded, scraggy, quaint eye, stumpy nose and freckled face.

"A thousand blizzards!" roared his majesty. "Is this the object of your extraordinary ardor?"

"The meanest slave in my kitchen is better looking than she!"

"Then judge how I must love her," said Megnon, "since she is as beautiful in my eyes as she is homely in yours."

So far so good. But here comes the lurid legend of the famous Ninon de Lençois. Ninon flourished during the reigns of Louis XIV and Louis XV, and many enthusiastic descriptions have been given of her incomparable charms.

Well, one day Mlle. de Lençois was quietly seated in her parlor when the servant came to announce to her that a gentleman wished to see her, but that he would not give his name.

"I know very well," said the stranger to the servant, "that mademoiselle is alone. Go back and tell her that I have a matter of the very highest importance to communicate to her."

"This strange reply tickled the curiosity of Mlle. de Lençois. She gave orders to admit him. He appeared before her. He was a little old man, clad in black, with a sinister look. He wore a black skullcap and carried a little black cane.

"Mademoiselle," said he, "be good enough to send away your waiting maid. Nobody but you alone must hear what I have to reveal."

Ninon was seated at first, but at last, remembering that she was in the presence of a little, decrepit old man, she took courage and sent away the waiting maid.

ROGUSH LITTLE MINCH.

The Trick by Which the Famous Race Horse Got His Name.

Many stories are told of Little Minch, the race horse, which indicate that he is a remarkably sagacious animal. Some would assert that he is capable of reasoning, but horse fanciers are liable to distort instinct and pure roguishness into reason and sagacity.

It is said that while this son of Glenelg was being transported east after his sale as a yearling he was given a nickname by a rail-road engineer that was subsequently applied to the horse, and under it he won his laurels.

Little Minch's car was attached to the front end of a passenger train, and the bell-rope passed through it, the same as it would through a passenger car.

The horse was playful, and soze the rope in his teeth the spiteful little youngster finally got the cord and gave it a lusty jerk. The bell in the engine clattered, and the engineer, fearing something was wrong back in the train, he sent for a stout old steam engine driver to look after it.

After cutting to the front of the car he waited for the astonished train-men to come up to his cab. They denied that any one had pulled the cord, and the engineer passed the occurrence over to the next station.

But the mischief-loving Little Minch was having a lot of fun in the car. No sooner had the train got under way again than he again seized the bell-rope and gave it another jerk.

Once again he pulled the bell-ringing was the work of tramps, but a search for the rascal failed to reveal any, and the train proceeded. With almost human regularity Little Minch again seized the rope, and he was not content with one jerk, and the way he pulled that rope was a caution.

The enraged engineer shipped back in time to see the horse tugging at the rope, which had bit into his teeth, as if he had been a dog. He was not content with one jerk, and the way he pulled that rope was a caution.

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CURIOUS CHINESE CUSTOMS.

A Bride's Salutation to Her Husband Kneels

A Chinese paper describes some amusing marriage customs. In a small mountain village between Kaga and Echu the bride comes to the bridegroom's gate and bows out to him, "Hello, brother! I've come."

To which the other replies, "Glad you've come."

The bride then appeals to him, "You'll never forsake me?"

And the bridegroom answers her, "I'll never leave you."

With these assurances the bride comes into the house, followed by a long procession of well-wishers, old and young. Cheap, muddy sake is distributed to them, and they commence dancing and are not content until the floor gives way.

After they tap their hands, crying, "How auspicious!" and take their leave.

At Kunita, in Echizen, the betrothal takes place when the parties are 8 or 9. The boy's parents and a deputation, numbering from five to fifteen, proceed to the girl's family, who, anticipating their coming, spread mats before the houses and await them.

After the usual salutation the deputation present as a betrothal present pieces of hand-woven cloth for cushions and at the same time the girl's family, who, anticipating their coming, spread mats before the houses and await them.

When the boy is 15 or thereabouts, he goes to stay with his betrothed's family, and works like a serf until the wedding, for a year, after which he is sent home in fine apparel.

Soon after the girl comes to her lover's house, accompanied with rustic music and songs. The noise and bustle are as great as on the festival day of the infancy god.

When the girl comes to the house, cushions made of the cloth given by her parents are piled one upon another for her to sit upon.

On these cushions the three repeated exchange of the triple wine cups, the most important ceremony at a wedding, takes place.

Stringing Pictures. The one thing that is unforgetable in picture hanging is to string them along the walls in a line.

Next to that comes the one of arranging the exactly symmetrical groups, suggestive of nothing so much as a lesson in geometry.

Group pictures, group them gracefully, but don't, when one has succeeded in making a graceful line on one side of the fireplace, reproduce it exactly on the other side.

According to one who speaks with the emphasis of authority, delicately framed water colors are the only proper things for the drawing room.

A YOUNG GIRL'S FORTUNE.

AN INTERESTING SKETCH.

Nothing appeals so strongly to a mother's affection as her daughter just budding into womanhood. Following is an instance of the latter, which, now a few years ago, had been terribly afflicted with nervousness, and had lost the entire use of her right arm.

She was in such a condition that we had to keep her in the arms of her mother, and she was unable to do anything for herself.

She had employed physicians, but she received no benefit from them. Her first husband, who weighed 75 pounds, and although she was only 100 pounds, her nervousness and weakness were such that she was unable to support him.

She attended school regularly, and studies with care and ease. She has recovered completely of her arm, her appetite is splendid, and she can do anything she wishes to do.

When my brother recommended the remedy, she was at first skeptical, but she would not listen to him, but as a last resort she sent for a bottle of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and she was cured.

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