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CHINA IN STATE OF DECAY

Ruin Seen Everywhere, and No Attempt Made to Stay the Ravages of Time.

"Along the road--and this is characteristic--nothing is being repaired," writes the Peking correspondent of the London Times. "It is the national failing to spend nothing on repairs, to build and then leave the building to fall gradually into decay and ruin. Nor is anything cleaned, and the equator that is a feature even of the imperial palace in Peking is most extraordinary. A few miles out of Honanfu there is a fine stone bridge of five arches; but the piers are falling away, the parapet has disappeared, and the flagstones with which it is paved have great gaps and hollows, so that the cart rumbles and crashes and bumps across it in a way that would break any but a Chinese springless cart. To repair is no one's business."

At another stage of his journey he remarks: "Perhaps to some extent the anticipated coming of a railway, which will kill the present cart traffic, may account for the shocking condition of the native inns. With railway extension in the air, there is no inducement for the innkeeper to spend money on the upkeep of his hotel. Nothing is repaired; their fifth and sixth are amazing. In the inn yard the well has its mouth below the level of the soil, so that water which is split may flow back into the well and carry with it the surface drainage. "A doctor must notice the prevalence of consumption. To the universal habit of expectoration on the floor, the exclusion of air, and the absence of drainage this prevalence must be due."

SEEK TO TERRIFY ENEMIES Insects, Physically Unable to "Put Up Fight," Resort to All Sorts of Schemes.

It is generally believed that many animals, especially insects, assume what is called a "terrifying attitude," by means of which they escape their natural enemies. In the Zoological "Jahrbuch" Mr. Arnold Japha describes the "terrifying attitude" of the hawk-eyed moth.

The movement lasts some few seconds, or half a minute. This is thought to frighten the moth's enemies. The eye spot may suggest the eye of some larger animal, while the energetic motion may give the impression that the enemy itself is about to be seized and devoured.

But does the moth's "terrifying attitude" really frighten its enemies, and allow it to escape; Standfuss tried some experiments with a view to settling this point. He gave specimens of the moth to nightingales, red-breast, black-cap and other birds. Four out of five were obviously frightened when the moth assumed the "terrifying attitude," and left it alone after one trial.

In the Olden Days. Galliard Hunt describes the social graces of Dolly Madison and her First Drawing-Room, in the June Harper's, and recalls that those were the days when the society of the nation was upheld on the foundation of two principles. "One was that a man of high rank in the public service was entitled to high rank in private life. Everybody was proud of the new republic and thought it an honor to associate with those who guided its destinies. The other was that members of families who had always occupied prominence in private life should continue in their position. It was not until the next generation that the political doctrine of the equality of men was construed to require a removal of the barriers which separated groups of people in private life."

Fine for Tabby. A middle-aged Washington maiden possesses a cat that is the light of her eyes. Life is a gray misery when household duties compel her shopping far from the adored tabby. But love has found a way. She has built two little bags, one of woolen for winter wear, warm and cozy as a pocket; the other of netting mesh for warm weather. In each she has crocheted or quilted, or however women work such things, a neat circular window for light and comfort.

Perfectly Easy. "See here, my man," said the philanthropist who was doing an investigating stunt on his own account, "you are an interesting puzzle to me."

A Primer of Life. No use to tell people not to be millionaires, for they can't help it when the money-making instinct is born in 'em; and no use to preach to 'em about the happiness of poverty, for some are born to get all the happiness there is in it--which won't fill an old steel tumbler. Folks are sure to take the road they were cut out to take, whether there's a golden calf or a hungry lion waiting for 'em.

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