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A VISIT TO THE OLD HOUSE.

I had not revisited the home of my boyhood for forty years. It was moonlight, when I alighted from the stage-coach, within sight of the house in which I was born; and though I had determined to postpone my visit until the next day, there were some distant glimpses of towering elms and piles of building, which brought a world of recollections back upon me, and sent me to bed to dream all night of broken scenes from my boyish history. Ah! how deep are those impressions which are made in the child's soul while he is thinking only of his present sports and passing troubles!

Business of a more common-place and sordid character occupied me, among papers and receipt-books, till noon. I then prepared myself for a solitary visit to the home of my fathers; and I chose to approach it by the rear. Between the old garden and the river was a meadow. I had rolled in it, among the dandelions and buttercups, a thousand times: but the old nurse, who had been to me a mother, was long since dead. The cool clear spring was in the place where I left it; and the rill which wandered from it into the river was marked by an edging of greener grass. The fragrant mint along its borders came to my sense with associations of

The hum of the ancestral urn,
The lamps that mid strange figures burn,
The ballad learnt in sunnier hours,
The posy of familiar flowers,
The six-tomed novel, the great lay
In quarto form, stored many a day,
Chat of old times. Dear friends, ye sorrow
To part, though only till to-morrow.

But when the flickering brands do paint
The wall with dancing shadows quaint,
And ruddy gleamings dapple o'er
Robes, features, portraits, ceiling, floor—
Then, Christian Evening hath a grace
Of brighter joy for many a face
Of comely age, whose thoughts extend
Beyond the earthly journey's end.
The hour of quiet is the hour
When holy rapture hath its power ;
And half the joy were wanting there
If evening were not crowned with prayer.
—Then warm adieux, then soft good-nights,
Then virtuous kisses close the rites.
Ah ! some there be, who always roam ;
My God ! I thank thee for my HOME.

X.

PERSIAN PROVERBS.

1. Not every thing is valued according to its size. The sheep is clean, the elephant unclean. One Arab horse, though lean, is better than a stable full of asses.
2. Ten dervishes may sleep on one blanket ; but one kingdom cannot hold two kings.

3. To quench a fire and leave a spark, or to kill a snake and leave its young, is not acting like a wise man.

4. Though the clouds pour down the water of life, you will never gather fruit from the branch of the willow.

5. The wolf's whelp will be a wolf, though brought up among men.

6. It is better for a thousand eyes to suffer than for the light of the sun to be darkened.

7. The cat, when desperate, tears out the tiger's eyes.

8. The poor and rich are servants of the earth, and the richest have the greatest wants.

9. The fool, who burns a camphor-candle in the day-time, will soon be without oil in his lamp at night.

10. Wherever there is a spring of sweet water, men, birds, and ants flock together.

11. A Gueber may light the sacred fire for a century; but if he falls into it a moment, he is burnt.

12. No one flings a stone into a tree that has no fruit.

13. Whoever grapples with an arm of steel will hurt his own wrist, though it be of silver.

14. What the ant is under your foot, that are you under the elephant's.

15. If a king call the day night, it is prudent to say, Behold the Moon and the Pleiades!

16. It is worth while to burn all your furniture, to boil the pot of your well-wisher.

17. Do good even to the wicked; for a dog's mouth is best stopped with a morsel.

18. To eat one's bread and sit at ease, is better than to wear a golden girdle and stand up as a servant.

19. The alchemist died of want, while the fool found a treasure under a ruin.

20. He who tells you the fault of your neighbours will doubtless tell them yours.

21. The peacock is proud of his beautiful plumes, but ashamed of his ugly feet.

22. A king said to a dervish, Do you ever think of me? He answered, Yes, when I forget God.

23. If a beggar commanded the armies of Islam, the infidels would flee to China, to escape his importunities.

24. It behoves a man to receive instruction, though the advice be written on a wall.

25. A great river is not made turbid by a stone; he who is agitated by ill treatment is as yet but shallow water.

26. The sons of Adam are formed of earth; if you are not humble, you are not a man.

27. An Arabian physician said to Ardshêr Babûcan: We eat to live, you live to eat.

28. Wormwood from the hand of a kind man is better than sweetmeats from one of a crabbed countenance.

29. The lion will not eat the dog's leavings, though he die of hunger in his den.

30. If the cat had wings, there would not be a sparrow's egg left in the world.

31. Our heavenly father has honey in abundance; but he does not give it to his child who has a fever.

32. To a wretch in the desert a boiled turnip is of more value than virgin silver.

33. If a dead man could return among his heirs, they would be more grieved than when he died.

34. When a labourer goes abroad, he suffers no distress; but a king out of his kingdom goes to bed hungry.

35. Where a price must be paid, the strength of ten men is less force than the money of one.

36. The sharpest sword will not cut the softest stick; but by sweet words and kindness, you may lead an elephant with a hair.

37. If the diver thought of the crocodile's jaw, he would never gain the precious pearl.

38. The sun itself is dim to the eye of the mole.

39. Two wise men will not break a hair, but two fools will break a chain.

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40. Whatever affects the heart seems lovely to the sight.
41. The ripe crop does not wave as vigorously as the green.
42. The sailors have a song, that if the rain did not fall in the mountains, the Tigris, in a year, would be a bed of sand.
43. The tree which has most fruit in summer has fewest leaves in winter.
44. The star Canopus shines all the world over; but scented leather comes only from Zeinen.
45. Fireworks are not a fit play for him who lives in a house made of reeds.
46. It will be disgraceful, in the day of reckoning, to see the slave free and the master in chains.
47. The ass that carries the lightest burden travels easiest.
48. The eye of the avaricious can no more be satisfied than a well can be filled with dew.
49. What has a goose to fear from a deluge?
50. A wise man without virtue is a blind man carrying a torch; he shows the road to others, but he does not guide himself.
51. The fleet steed is tired with galloping, while the slow camel still proceeds at an even pace.
52. Whoever does not practise what he learns is like one who ploughs but never sows.
53. It is not the part of wisdom to clapperclaw a lion or to box with a sword.
54. The curs of the market howl at the hound, but they dare not approach him.
55. The archer should be patient; for the arrow, when it leaves the bow, returns not.
56. How can the nightingale sing with a crow in the same cage?
57. A stone can bruise a golden cup; but its own worth is not thereby increased.
58. The music of the harp cannot drown the noise of the drum, and the odour of ambergris is lost in that of garlic.

59. If a jewel falls into the mud it is still precious, and if dust flies up to the sky it is still worthless.

60. Ashes are of high descent, produced by fire, but being intrinsically worthless, are no better than dust.

61. That is musk which has the smell of musk, and not merely that which is called so by the druggist.

62. The wise man is like a medicine-chest, silent but full of virtues; the fool like the martial drum, noisy but empty.

63. The wicked rich man is a gilded clod, and a pious poor man is a beauty soiled with earth; the latter wears the tattered garment of Moses, the former has Pharaoh's ulcer covered with jewels.

64. The unlearned good man travels on foot; the slothful learned man sleeps on horseback.

65. When you cannot produce honey, do not sting.

66. The hand should be restrained from evil whether the sleeve is long or short.

67. Pot-herbs and vinegar, earned by one's self, are better than bread and lamb, bestowed by the head man of the village.

68. It is foolish to travel an unknown road without following the caravan.

69. It is known that a well-trained camel will obey a child's hand for a hundred parasangs, but then, if the road becomes dangerous, will slip the bridle and obey no longer.

70. A dervish whose end is good, is better than a king whose end is 'evil. It is better to suffer before than after enjoyment.

71. The sky enriches the earth with rain, and the earth returns it nothing but dust.

72. Gold is got from the mine by digging the earth, and from the miser by digging his soul.

73. The judge who favours your adversary for four cucumbers will favour you for a field of musk-melons.

74. The Tigris will still flow through Bagdad, after the Caliphs cease to reign.

SADI SHIRAZI.