

# NIZAM OF HYDERABAD

## MAGNIFICENT SURROUNDINGS OF AN INDIAN POTENTATE.

### His Collection of Jewels Valued at \$30,000,000—The Biggest Diamond in the World—Hunting with Cheetahs.

"The Nizam of Hyderabad," said a distinguished English traveler to a San Francisco Chronicle reporter, "is one of the strangest monarchs in the world. He is a finely-featured, brown-boarded, handsome man, perhaps 26 years of age. He is in every respect an Oriental, surrounded with strange conditions and a luxury that is very likely unmatched in the world. He is an eager sportsman and one of the most daring tiger hunters in India. It takes but a little less than \$10,000,000 to maintain his establishment for a year. The cost of maintaining the court of Queen Victoria is about one-fourth as much.

"He entertains on a marvellous scale, and his wealth is lavished in every direction. He is the mightiest of all Indian princes, and nobles of absolute power in their own provinces compose his court. The banquets which he loves to give are of singular magnificence. The service is of solid gold. The surroundings are of Oriental splendor. The guests are robed in the finest of silks and adorned with jewels, any one of which is worth a fortune. The Nizam's own robe eclipses them all. Made of snow-white silk, it glistens with hundreds of jewels and ropes of pearls are about his neck and arms. Precious stones and strings of emeralds adorn his dress. The buttons are immense pearls set in diamonds. His presence seems to take one back to the fabulous times of the Arabian Knights. He lives for pleasure alone. The immense revenues, six millions sterling, which every year his subjects give, are his pocket money. His existence is one of enjoyment.

"Yet he cannot marry. Though above the law in all else, he dare not violate that decree of the country which forbids him a wife. "Hyderabad is about the last stronghold of feudalism in the world. For spectacular interest, for a strange barbaric, ancient aspect it is perhaps the most fascinating place in the world. It is essentially a town of the past, preserving the wonderful features of the ancient Orient unbroken. Standing on the bridge we see below us the shallow waters of the river that divides the town. In the distance are the minarets and the gables of the ancient buildings, the crowded, narrow streets through which a curious throng winds its way. Here and there we see the elephant with gay trappings conveying some great noble to his home. All are armed and all are dressed, a motley crowd, in the picturesque garb of the Orient.

Below us the dabbie, the washerman, flaps his dirty clothes in the waters of the river, two or three elephants sport idly in the water, a troop of camels bearing rich products from the interior pass slowly from shore to shore. The scene of so many various details is a strange one that I think cannot be duplicated in the world. "In the city is the main palace of the Nizam, where closely guarded he keeps his jewels. Extraordinary treasures they are. There are thousands of emeralds, pearls and precious stones of almost every kind. It seems as if the wealth of King Solomon's mines were before us. I saw them all. They make perhaps the greatest collection of jewels in the world, worth \$30,000,000. When I had seen them I asked their princely owner to allow me to look upon the Nizam, the largest diamond ever found. He took it from its place in an ordinary green case. He carefully opened the box, slowly unwound a dirty looking cloth, and placed in my hand a great crystal-like slug as big as a champagne glass, and worth just \$4,000,000. It was the Nizam diamond. It weighs about 450 carats, and is very much larger than any other diamond on earth. From one side a large piece has been broken under curious circumstances.

"The story of how the diamond was discovered is a strange one. A native workman of Portugal used to scintillate on a clay bank. As he came and went from work it shot its flashing fires in a mysterious way. He thought it the devil's eye, for it shone at night. He consulted a holy Brahmin, who was taken to the spot.

"You did well to tell me," declared the Brahmin, "for it would have done you serious injury. "The stone was dug from the bank, but the Brahmin was not sure it was a diamond. He seized a hammer, and with a blow smashed a small part of it in fragments. The larger stone was sold to the grandfather of the present Nizam for a lac of rupees.

"The Nizam, with his immense revenues, can well afford to spend millions for precious stones. Why he does so, I think, quite as interesting as the fact that he does. Ever since the first convulsion among the native princes of India it has been their custom to put their wealth in as portable a form as possible. They buy jewels and gold.

"A neighbor to the Nizam, the Maharajah of Gwalior, had \$20,000,000 in gold packed between the floors of his palace. Fear has prompted them to this habit and fear maintains the custom. Not that they are dissatisfied with English rule, for they are as contented as any race can be under the domination of another. They wish to see the English rule upheld and their jewels and beautiful stones of almost priceless value and their enormous revenues of gold as pledges of their support. They fear the Russians. In India there are 60,000,000 Mohammedans, and the Czar is their foe. They

know he is ready and waiting to despoil Constantinople and St. Sophia, and that is a condition which makes upon the Prime Ministers of England a pressure which they cannot resist. If Lord Salisbury allowed Russia to take Constantinople and expel the Sultan, there would be in every bazaar of India the fires of rebellion and determination to avenge the act. While England may wish to keep free from European politics, she cannot permit Russia to move on Constantinople.

One of the most interesting episodes told by the speaker was a description of a cheetah hunt, a strange sport in which the Nizam takes great delight. "The Nizam has a splendid palace erected on the plains twenty miles from Hyderabad. From there the hunting party starts on the fleetest of Arab horses. With it is a low open cart upon which ride two enormous cats, the hunting panthers. The game of which they are in search is the black buck, the fastest of deer and one which will outrun any horse. Ahead of the party the huntsman moves cautiously. Beyond a gently sloping hill the black buck is seen. The panthers have already felt its presence and are crouching ready for their prey. The enormous beasts are led up the hill. They tug constantly at the leash, but when all is ready the hood which covers their eyes is removed, and with a bound, they are after the frightened deer. The race is short, and when the huntsman has galloped to where the black buck lies the panther has its teeth sunk in its victim's throat, and is slowly sucking its blood. The deer's throat is then cut from side to side and the gushing blood caught in a pan. The panther's nose is thrust into the warm blood and the chase is over. The hood is placed over the animal's eyes and it is led back to its place on the cart."

### Food for a Dyspeptic.

"I wish to tell the sufferer from a weak stomach how to cook some things which a dyspeptic can eat," writes a correspondent, who has apparently given the subject much thought and practical effort. "Four years ago my husband was almost helpless with dyspepsia. He consulted two doctors from whom he learned that he could not live a year. Everything he ate caused him great pain, until he tried a fresh egg, well beaten with a little sugar, a very little salt and nutmeg, over which was poured a teacup two-thirds full of boiling milk, stirring the egg constantly. He took this warm and could retain it without trouble. Later I prepared milk toast for him as follows: I used stale, salt-rising bread, made from wheat middlings, cut in slices half an inch thick, toasted a nice brown in a brisk oven and soaked in sweet milk, which had been boiled and slightly thickened with flour and seasoned with salt and butter. Another dish consisted of one cup of rice, well washed, put in a large granite basin with one cup of water and half a teaspoon of salt, and allowed to cook slowly until all the water was taken up by the rice. Then I added one tablespoonful of sugar and five cupfuls of new milk, and stirred it well, after which I baked it in a slow oven for several hours. The rest of the family liked this as well as he did, especially when served with sweet sauce."—(New York World.)

### Photography and Crime.

The exhibition of the Photographic Society of Great Britain, which was opened to the public recently, is of great interest, both from the artistic and the scientific point of view. Dr. P. Jeserich, a German, has devoted his attention to the development of photography as a means of assisting the administration of the law. The screen which contains Dr. Jeserich's plates is one of the chief curiosities of the exhibition. He has shown, by enlarging photographs taken upon sensitized plates, that it is possible to detect certain kinds of forgery in the most unimpeachable way; for example, where a figure or a word has been altered—and this is one of the commonest kinds of forgery—the different inks employed appear in the plate in quite different colors. Similarly where a name has first been written in pencil and then traced over in ink, however carefully the pencil marks have been erased, some faint traces of the plumbago are sure to remain in the interstices of the paper, and these are revealed in the magnified photograph. Dr. Jeserich's photographs of hair and of pure and impure blood, before and after treatment with reducing agents, are also most curious, and several stories are told of the use that has been made of them in murder trials in Germany.—[London Times.]

### A Wonderful Dakota Rainbow.

Dr. McVean arrived in the city last night from a tour of the country. The Doctor resides at Armour, S. D., and has much to tell about that region. "A few days ago," he said, "the people, among the number myself, witnessed one of the most remarkable phenomena seen in that or any other portion of the United States. The phenomenon consisted of the appearance of the northern lights under remarkable circumstances. The lights formed a regular rainbow and appeared at night. The bow extended the whole length of the horizon and was thirty feet wide. Everything was seen on the broad prairie just as if it had been lit up by electricity. The old settlers claim that such a thing was noticed in 1862, but not since."—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.]

### THE POOR FLY.

"There are no flies on me." "No, you keep your jaw wagging so much it scares them away."

### Too Rapid Growth.

In the last decade the cities of Washington, now a State, made marvellous advance. Seattle gained in population 1,112.48 per cent., Tacoma, 3,170.23, Spokane Falls, 5,592. The aggregate of this population was nearly 100,000. The cities enjoyed phenomenal booming, but the boom is over, and, unfortunately for them, the country, a great source of wealth when fields are tilled, did not fill—as rapidly as the cities filled. Those cities are now experiencing the reaction which Wichita and even Kansas City suffered. Chicago had several experiences of the kind. Incorporated in 1837, its growth was checked by the ensuing panic. It experienced hard times during the panic of 1857. Again in 1873, and for several years succeeding, its activities appeared to have led it too far, and booming holders of real estate equities suffered great loss. These checks, however, were felt at times when panic was general throughout the country. The flurry of last November found Chicago so stable that it was complacent when financial New York was excited.

The Washington cities have overcome themselves, and must for a time pay the penalty of their excessive booming. Before they recover and start anew the back-country must fill up. Of the ultimate prosperity of these cities there is practically no doubt. The far Northwest is marvelously rich in natural resources. In soil, in forests, in minerals there is sufficiency to support an empire. The harbors are spacious. There is magnificent opportunity for commerce, agriculture, mining, manufactures, but growth in these directions must be slow to be sure. The city is but the complement of the country.

### How to Clean a Plaster Bust.

A correspondent of a scientific journal states that a bust or statue can be most thoroughly cleaned, provided it has not been painted, oiled, or waxed, by inverting it and filling it with water free from iron. The water is then allowed to filter through the plaster. After the filtering has been kept up for a sufficient time, and the outside surface occasionally washed with water and a soft brush, the plaster is allowed to dry. It is then found that all the dust has been wiped out of the pores of the cast, which is thus restored to its original whiteness.—[Invention, London.]


### Hard Times in Russia.

The Russian nobility are in comparatively wretched circumstances as the peasantry. There will be nearly 900 estates belonging to nobles sold by auction at the instance of the State Bank that has loaned them money on mortgages. The estates will bring far less than their mortgage value on account of the inability of Jews, foreigners, or foreign syndicates to acquire landed property.

### One Way Out of It.

"The lawyers will not get rich fighting over my will," remarked old Mr. Scaddis. "Ah!" "No, sir; I won't make any."—[Epoch.]

# SYRUP OF FIGS

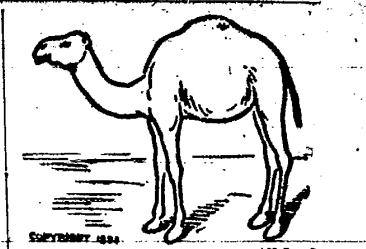


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