



## Little Stories of Arabian Life

On a certain day of the days, a desert Bedouin brought a flock of his sheep to the city to sell, and although he knew nothing of the books of the Mullah, he was a shrewd bargainer, and he sold his sheep for one hundred liras, which is nearly as much as five hundred dollars. And in the same city there lived a shop-keeper who was very cunning but not very honest, as are many shop-keepers, and he heard of the large sum of money that the Bedouin had received for his sheep, and at once he began to devise means of getting that money.



BAHREIN SCHOOL IN SWIMMING

So the shop-keeper, whose name was "Servant of the Generous," went to a tin-smith in the Bazaar, and bought a pipe which was long enough to reach from the roof of his shop, nearly to the ground in front of the rug where he sat on his crossed legs, all day long, selling dried apricots. And he ordered his wife to prepare all sorts of food, and have them ready, hot, on the roof, at the time of the afternoon prayers of that day.

And immediately after the afternoon prayers, the Bedouin was walking through the Bazaar, and he stopped in front of the shop-keeper and asked him what it was that he had hanging down in front of him. And the shop-keeper explained that it was a new invention from the land of the Franks, from which dropped any sort of food that the owner might demand, if only he rapped upon it with a stick. "Do me the favor," said the shop-keeper, "of coming in and I will show you." So the shop-keeper shouted for his servant to bring him a platter, and when it was ready, he put it under the pipe, and rapped on the pipe with his stick, and called for rice, and out of the end of the pipe, there fell an abundance of rice, the most delicious that the

Bedouin had ever tasted, and the shop-keeper called for mutton, and immediately it fell from the pipe, enough for twenty men, and vegetables likewise, and sweetmeats, as they were demanded, and the Bedouin wondered at the astonishing things that come from the land of the Franks and he ate enough to last for several days, as Bedouins do when they have the chance.

And after they had drunk coffee and smoked cigarettes, the Bedouin said to the shop-keeper, "I have many guests to feed, and therefore I wish to buy this." "That," replied the shop-keeper courteously, "is impossible as I have just brought it out from the country of the Franks, at a cost of quite one hundred liras, and I have also much need for it." "Reduce your price at least somewhat," replied the Bedouin. "Give it to me for twenty liras." "You make sport of me," replied the shop-keeper, "but as a special favor to a guest, you may have it for eighty." "Be satisfied," replied the Bedouin, "with sixty liras. I am a poor man." "Very well, replied the shop-keeper, who well knew that was all the money he had. "It is a great loss to me, but for that sum you may have it." So the Bedouin carried it away, greatly delighted, and that same night the shop-keeper sold all his goods to a shop-keeper across the street for twenty bishliks, which is less than a lira, and left for Damascus.

And immediately after reaching his tribe, the Bedouin set up the pipe in his guest tent, as it had been set up in the shop, and he rejoiced exceedingly when he saw a number of guests come in from a long journey, and he told them of the wonderful pipe that had come from the land of the Franks, and when it was time to eat, he rapped proudly on the pipe with his stick, but nothing fell from the pipe except a few dried rice grains. And the Bedouin was greatly ashamed as he prepared for them food, in the usual manner. And when he went to the city to search for the shop-keeper, he could not find him. "What a liar he was," said the Bedouin, "but praise be to God, under all circumstances."

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## Mission News

The school at Busrah was opened after the summer vacation in the month of October. The school has taken its quarters in the building loaned for the purpose by the ruling sheikh of a neighboring town. This man has five of his sons attending the school.

Mr. Pennings returned from his stay in India and has for a few months lived in Amara station. This has given this station a resident missionary again after many months of supervision from Busrah station.

In October H. H. Said Feysul, the Sultan of the Province of Oman, died at Maskat. This man could not be called a friend of the Mission, but has oftentimes helped the missionaries living at Maskat with many favors. His last days were not happy ones because of the discontent and disturbances in his kingdom. His successor, Said Temur, is a man

of larger education and has done some traveling in India, and also in Mesopotamia. He seems keen on introducing many reforms.

The colporteur in one of the out-stations on the Euphrates writes that the people have quite changed in their attitude to him and the work during the last month or more of his absence from the place. He thinks the change is largely accounted for because of the news of the war, which has reached there and has not impressed them favorably.

The missionary stationed at Kuwait is making a good recovery from a siege of smallpox. We are thankful that the trouble was of a light nature and no one else of the station has been taken with it.

An Arab from Nejd came to the Bible Shop to buy an Arabic Bible. He decided he wanted two copies but each must have the date of a different year. He purposed to compare the two copies to discover how many changes the Christians make in their Bible every time they print a new edition. The books were neatly wrapped in paper to be taken to his home in the interior of Arabia.

The colporteur in Maskat writes that he is happy again because, after so long a spell of almost nothing to do, he is kept so very busy that he almost always gets home late for his meals. Many of the sheikhs from the numerous places of inland Oman had come to town to pay their respects to the new Sultan, and almost all of them had favored the Bible shop with a call. They inquired after their old friends of the missionaries and colporteurs and left an invitation for them to come inland and visit them soon, and to bring their books with them.

Linga, on the Persian side of the Persian Gulf, has been visited by missionary and colporteur. This place has been vacated for a few months because of the resignation of the colporteur. The friends in the place called to welcome us, and some others of the place took occasion to tell us how sorry they were to have us back again.

Bahrein's school has been reopened after the summer vacation. Several new boys have entered the classes. The evening school is expected to open after the big feast in November, and many of the young men have promised to attend regularly.

An Arab from inland Arabia dropped in at morning chapel prayers. He became interested in the hymn book and read in it with much pleasure. Later in the hospital he was introduced to the good news in the Bible. He has returned twice and is reading a Scripture portion, having promised to come after another portion after he has completed the one in hand.

The several stations of the Mission have enjoyed the visit of the Rev. Frank Eckerson, who called in the Gulf while on the way to his own field in China.

Pray for a baptized Arab who has run away from his debts and is, because he fears, living away from all Christian influences and without Christ. Also for an ex-colporteur who says he is not a Moslem at heart, but for love of this world denies Christ and lives in the world.

We regret to announce that the special number of Kuwait has been delayed. It will appear later.