



#### A Scene in the Jungle.

A party of ivory hunters were one day out in an Indian jungle near the river Ganges in search of elephants. They were obliged to be careful and keep their eyes about them, for they had heard that a fierce man-eating tiger had been seen several times near one of the neighbouring villages, and they knew that they must be prepared in case he became aware of their presence, and felt inclined to make a meal of one of the party. So they loaded their guns with the heavy ball necessary for elephant shooting, and primed the pistols they carried in their belts, so as to be ready for any emergency. They watched for some hours before seeing any sign, either of tiger or elephants, though one man declared that he heard a low growl about noon, which was proof positive that the man-eater was at no great distance.

By-and-by, as the afternoon drew on, a troop of elephants was seen quietly moving on towards the river, led by an old male with an enormous pair of tusks. As he approached a shelving part of the bank he suddenly raised his trunk and uttered a cry like the blast of a trumpet, which not only alarmed his comrades, but also the peacocks and other birds, which took to hasty flight, screaming as they went. A little elephant calf turned tail and sought protection from its mother, and as the hunters watched, they saw the leader rise up on his hind legs, while the dreaded tiger sprang out of the jungle at his feet. To fire straight into Sir Tiger's open mouth was the work of a moment. The shot told, the savage brute rolled over lifeless, and the hunters made haste to secure the much-desired elephants, some of which, however, escaped in the general confusion.

#### Palimpsest Manuscripts.

In olden times writing materials were not so plentiful as they are now, and the people who could write were not so numerous either. Those who could do so were principally the monks, who in their convents had more leisure than the busy toilers in the outside world. In the convents were many old parchments and vellum manuscripts which were not regarded with much reverence by the monks, who when they were in want of vellum to write down various items concerning their order or convent, would wash out the lamp-black or colouring matter of the ink upon the old parchments, and sometimes rub it down with pumice stone, or scrape it. And parchments which had been thus used were termed *palimpsest*, from a Greek word signifying twice scraped.

The ink used, however, was made with vinegar, and later with an infusion of iron, and both these materials sink into parchment, so that though the surface colouring may be rubbed off, yet the iron or vinegar having sunk into the parchment still remains.

Ink being a combination of iron and a solution of *galls*, it has been found that if with a light brush a solution of galls is applied to a palimpsest manuscript, the original writing is restored, and in this manner many manuscripts have been restored to their first condition.

#### School Life in Japan.

Education has always been carefully attended to in Japan, and children were kept at school till they could read and write before the country was thrown open to foreigners, and a new system of teaching introduced. In the old days they had exclusively



to learn the difficult Chinese characters, which took a great deal of time and did not help them at all if they ever wished to become acquainted with any other language, but now they are beginning to be taught the Roman letters in which all our books are printed. The native custom has always been that of sitting crossed-legged on the floor on soft mats, with the books and writing materials spread out on low desks of the most primitive construction, but latterly the improved school furniture used in England has been introduced, very much to the discomfort of little bare or sandalled feet which feel the winter cold when dangling from a form far more than they did when comfortably tucked up under the body. A great many of the teachers employed by Government are English or American, and when the native pupil teachers are considered sufficiently well educated under them they are drafted off to teach their young country people in different parts. Japanese children have remarkably good memories, though they do not reason much on what they learn, and are always glad of the slightest excuse for a holiday. Their gentle manners and respectful demeanour make them very pleasant pupils to teach, and they usually pay great attention to their tasks. The empress takes much interest in the education of the girls, and has built a school for them at Jeddo out of her own private purse, where they are superintended by American ladies, who among other useful things show them how to do plain needlework, and to cut out and make their own clothes.

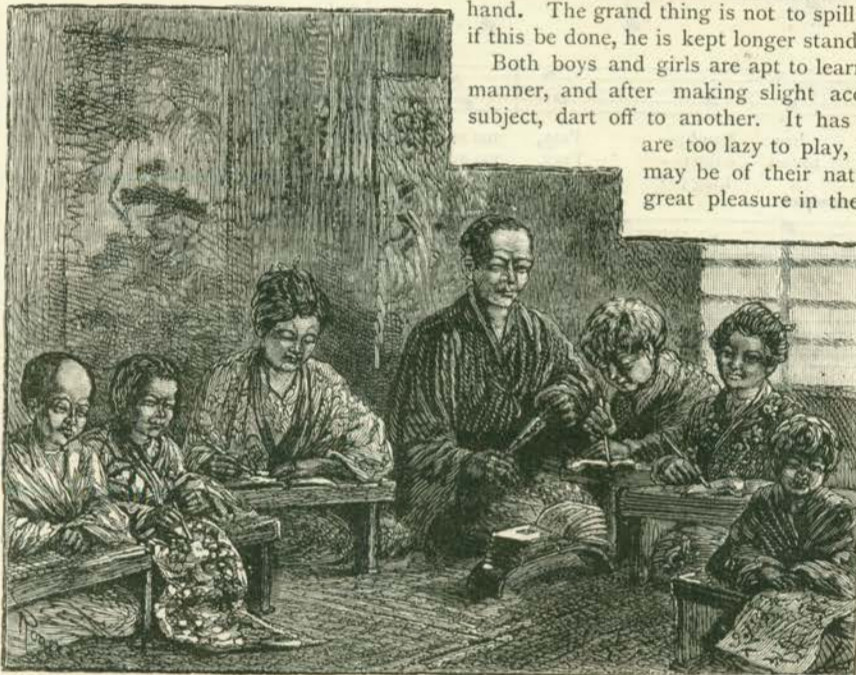


A PUNISHMENT.

However docile children may be, a little mischief is sure to crop up sometimes. The Japanese have a great dislike to inflicting corporal punishment, and try every other means of correction before resorting to the rod. Sometimes the culprit has to stand and hold a thin piece of burning punk or bamboo about a foot long till it is all consumed. The natural way of shortening this penance is of course to break a piece off the lower end; but if this be detected, a second punishment is added. A capital way of keeping a restless, fidgety child quiet is by making him stand still with a cup of water in one hand. The grand thing is not to spill any of the water, but if this be done, he is kept longer standing in disgrace.

Both boys and girls are apt to learn in a very superficial manner, and after making slight acquaintance with one subject, dart off to another. It has been said that they are too lazy to play, but however true this may be of their native habits, they take great pleasure in the gymnastic exercises

for which every opportunity is given them in the playgrounds attached to the larger schools; and it has been found that where the swings, climbing poles, parallel bars, &c., are well used, the pupils are in far better health than before these means of relaxation and physical exercise were adopted.



A JAPANESE SCHOOL.