

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES.

Annual Southern California Festival.

The "Tournament of Roses" is given every year; it might be called a floral festival, as the idea which suggested the festival was the coming of the winter and the ripening of the oranges. It is essentially a children's day; and the young folks are encouraged to take part in it. For weeks beforehand the program is talked of, and the fortune-tellers of pony-carriages and carts vying with one another in the elaboration of designs to compete for the prizes offered to the vehicles showing the most beautiful and artistic floral decorations. Prizes are given also for the various races of ponies, horses, and burros, one prize being for the last to arrive in a slow race. Finally the day—the first of the new year—arrives. Early in the morning the procession forms. The boys and girls on horseback, their steeds garlanded with flowers, join the master of ceremonies. The band plays gaily, and they wind their way to the park, where the tournament is to be held. The grand stand is already packed with men, women, and children, and in front is a heaping pile of oranges and flowers, free to all. Finally the master of ceremonies rings a bell, the young folks stand back, and the track is cleared. The first event is a trial of an old Italian and Spanish cart, played in the fifteenth century, and known as "tilting at the ring." The cart is a little larger than a napkin-ring, suspended at intervals over the track, and the "knights" charge upon it at full speed, endeavoring to carry as many rings on their long lances as they can. The one taking the greatest number is declared the victor. Shouts of cheers greet the knights, some of whom often are descendants of the oldest Spanish families in the State.

It comes the hurdle-race or trench-racing, by fine California thoroughbreds. "Can it be, as I have heard, that California hurdle is used?" we have asked. Quite possible, for the new dog across the track a veritable hedge of the white flowers—to East eyes the most remarkable hurdle as ever jumped. The bell rings, and away go the racers. They clear the hurdle in graceful leaps, and sweep past the stand with a clatter of hoofs and a gleam of silver trappings from the old Mexican saddles, spurs and bits.

The third event is a race in which the dog folks are particularly interested, to the greyhounds—"Mouse" and her grandson "Junior"—have challenged the best race horse in Pasadena. Mouse is decked with a huge collar of red geraniums (the "colors" of the club to which she belongs), and looks up, blinking and barking very hard, as much as to say, "I've run away from this horse on many a bet, and don't propose to be defeated for all these people."

All is ready. The track on both sides crowded with eager faces. "Go!" puts the starter. Around comes the horse, "Daisy," and as she crosses the line with hardly a glance at her old companions, Mouse and Junior are yipped, and they dash away amid a chorus of cheers and shouts. The horse runs along like a bird, but close beside are the two dogs, moving like machines. Around the course they go, one ahead, barking and thinking it a sport, while old Mouse hangs at the starter, looking up every few moments to see why Daisy does not go faster. Under grow the shouts as the competitors pass around the great circle. Boys and girls crowd upon the track, and the dogs go up that the dogs are ahead. A moment later, horse and dogs come rushing across the line, the latter well in advance. As every one knows that the best horse cannot run away from a greyhound, the defeat of Daisy is considered no disgrace.

While the dogs are being congratulated and the kennel of fox-hounds beneath the grand stand is howling and giving a welcome, the open space within the track is cleared for the polo-teams, and for an hour they give an exciting exhibition of their manly sport.—(St. Nicholas.

Chinese Servants at Singapore.

"Who will free us from the tyranny of the Chinese domestic?" This cry of despair comes to us from Singapore, where, if we may trust the local papers, the difficulties to which it refers have now reached a climax. In particular the extortions of the Chinese cook (all domestic servants in the Straits Settlements appear to be Chinese) are represented as something appalling. His pilferings in collusion with the tradesmen are locally known as "squeezers," and it is affirmed that an offer to a Chinese servant of an increase of wages in lieu of these irregular imposts would not be met with scorn and derision.

"A Housewife and Mother" writes, complaining piteously of the "rapacity and wickedness" of these "tyrants of the kitchen," but it appears to be easier to complain than to find a remedy. One editor feebly suggests that somebody or other "should make an effort" a course which, it will be remembered, was recommended to the first Mrs. Domhey with no very satisfactory result. Another snags at the idea of asking the Penang Debating Society to "thrash the subject out." It is not stated whether the Chinese servants are to be represented at the discussion. Up to the present the debate has a somewhat one-sided air.—London News.

Gypsies Disinfected in Paris.

A somewhat rare and curious sight was seen in Paris a few days ago. About sixty gypsy caravans were drawn up in line, and with their occupants (about 500 in number,) publicly disinfected. This measure was taken in consequence of the discovery of five or six cases of cholera among the gypsies, who had recently arrived from Belgium and Prussia. The caravans were found to be in a most filthy condition.

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Receipt for Making One Loaf.

ONE quart flour, 1 teaspoonful salt, half a teaspoonful sugar, 2 heaping teaspoonfuls Royal Baking Powder, half medium sized cold boiled potato, and water. Sift together thoroughly flour, salt, sugar, and baking powder; rub in the potato; add sufficient water to mix smoothly and rapidly into a stiff batter, about as soft as for pound-cake; about a pint of water to a quart of flour will be required—

more or less according to the brand and quality of the flour used. Do not make a stiff dough, like yeast bread. Pour the batter into a greased pan, 4 1/2 x 8 inches, and 4 inches deep, filling about half full. The loaf will rise to fill the pan when baked. Bake in very hot oven 45 minutes, placing paper over first 15 minutes baking, to prevent crust from becoming too brown. Bake at once. Don't mix with milk.

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