

# PARSEE COUPLE HERE WITH OLD CUSTOMS

**Cotton Broker from Bombay Likes  
the Methods on Our Stock  
Exchange, He Says.**

**WIFE'S CLOTHES DAZZLING**

**She Says Women in Paris Dress Bet-  
ter Than Those in New York—Dis-  
likes Elevators, Suffers from Heat.**

P. D. Patel, a native of Bombay, and his wife, who goes about bareheaded and wears the graceful Sari costume, are at the Hotel Astor. They are Parsees, who observe all the old customs of that religion. Mr. Patel is a cotton broker of Bombay, and his wife, who is a high type of East Indian beauty, is a graduate of Bombay University. Both speak English fluently, and they told yesterday how much they were enjoying their first visit to the United States. Mrs. Patel says there is too much noise in New York to suit her, and the elevators in the tall buildings which drop like parachutes, she says, are too much for her nerves.

"I think that this is a wonderful country," she said, "although I have been suffering from the heat. It is hotter than India. I enjoyed viewing the homes of the wealthy and fashionable class here in New York, but their houses are too closely packed together. In Bombay the homes of the rich are surrounded by gardens.

"I do not think the women here dress as well as they do in Paris. We visited Paris and London on our way here. The cooking here is quite as good as the French cooking, and it is very much like what we are used to at home. I found the cooking in England very different."

Mr. Patel visited the Cotton Exchange yesterday, and he marveled at what he saw. "I find that the business is carried on in a very legitimate manner," he said, "and the manner in which the men in Wall Street concentrate their minds on their business is remarkable to an East Indian. My visit to the financial district has benefited me greatly.

"The cotton market in Bombay is really ruled by the market here, and we get the quotations every morning by cable. Of course we have nothing like the market here in cotton, but our business is growing steadily. Last year India sold to the United States something like 10,000 bales of cotton. Our product in India is a rougher and a more short staple than the American cotton, and can be used only in the production of inferior cotton goods.

"Our Exchange is very tame to the Exchanges here. We have no plungers such as manipulate the market here, and there are no Americans on our roll of membership. I'm afraid if an American would come over to us he would play havoc with things."

In reference to his religion, Mr. Patel had this to say: "The Parsees are the descendants of Persians who settled in India more than 1,300 years ago. They number some 80,000 all told. Although we are called fire worshippers, we are not in the true sense of the word. The Parsees display eternal fires in their temples as the symbol of God.

"There has been much said about the way in which we dispose of our dead. We are commanded not to despoil or pollute the air, the water, or the fire with our dead. The Parsees thus have towers of silence, in which the dead are placed, and in a short time the vultures have disposed of the body. This is a most sanitary manner, and European scientists have pronounced it to be better than any custom of burial in use in other countries.

"The Parsees," he continued, "do not mix with the other natives of East India, although they are very loyal to the English Government. The women enjoy all the liberties of a European or American woman, and enjoy the love and respect of their husbands. There are few divorces among them, and the women never marry outside of their sect."

The visitors will sail for Europe on Tuesday, and expect to reach Bombay sometime in November. They have already visited Washington and Niagara Falls.