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THE BIRTH-MARK

By ETTA W. PIERCE.

CHAPTER VIII—Continued.

The moon rose over the snug garden, and shone into the room. The night was like day, the air full of balmy and the earthy odors of spring. Far away the cowed, hushed sea moaned plaintively among the rocks of the shore. They finished their meal, and rose up from the board.

"Put on your bonnet, Dimple," said the doctor, "and we will go out for a little walk."

"Where are you going?" asked Dimple, peering up into his grave face. "That depends upon the distance to which you feel equal," said Dr. G.

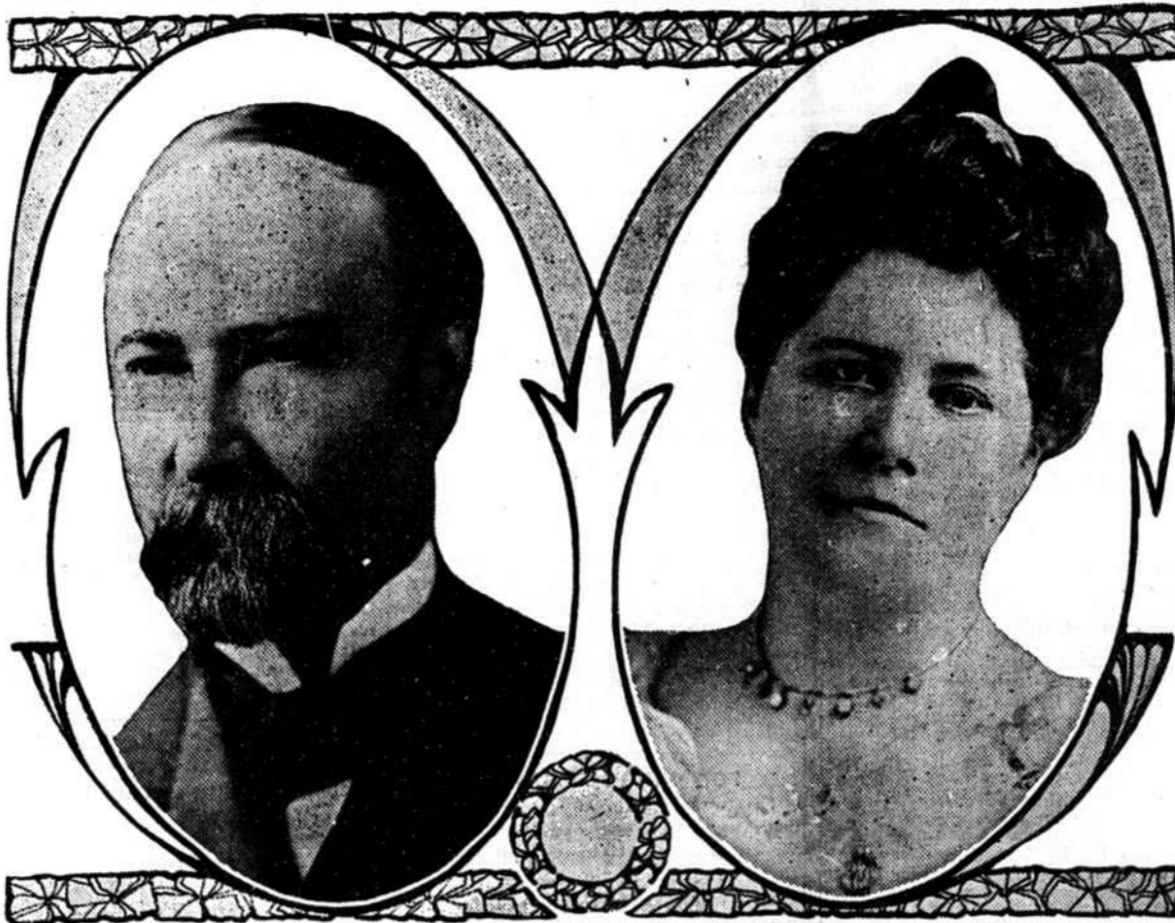
"Then," said Dr. G., "let us go up to the road to Hannah Duff's old house."

"What does it mean?" she asked, breathlessly. "He was silent a moment, pondering. 'I think,' he answered, slowly, 'it means those two women.'"

"Hannah Duff?" "And the mother of the missing child. It is a costly trinket, as you see. Without doubt it belonged to her."

"You think the old creature stole it?" cried Dimple, striving to read his face by the moonlight.

"Or it might have been left with the child," he answered. "It is likely Hannah Duff hid it there beneath the hearth, simply because she dared not dispose of it in any other way, marked as it is."



CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS, WHO MAY BE SENT TO ENGLAND AS AMBASSADOR, AND MRS. FAIRBANKS.

Information of President Taft's apparent intention to supplant Whitelaw Reid as ambassador at the court of St. James with a man of his own choosing has revived the report of the president's desire to send ex-Vice President Fairbanks to Great Britain.

"Sixteen years; ever since my third birthday."

A loud, lamentable blast tears through the trees in the playground. Paulette listens a moment and then goes on lightly.

"But her letters, Sibyl, dear; she writes you very regularly, I'm sure—you have her letters?"

"Sibyl's face did not soften in the least. 'Such as they are. Mamma certainly does not gush in them—she does not bore me with sentiment. But, then, she is a confirmed invalid; that may explain all.'"

"What can she mean by keeping you here so long?" mused Paulette, in deep sympathy with her friend. "Can she have forgotten your age? Does she know how beautiful you are? I never supposed a mother could remain parted voluntarily from a child for sixteen years."

"You now see that it is possible," rejoined Sibyl, dryly. "Mamma confines herself exclusively to paying my bills, writing me a letter of five or six lines per month and sending me plenty of pin money—I always have more of that than any other girl in the pensionnat. Oh, Paulette, it is monstrous! Why does she not come for me? Long ago I learned all that can be taught here. How tired I am of the place! How I hate it! How I long to be gone!"

"This with great passion, dashing her slim white hands down upon the window sill. Paulette leaned quickly over and kissed her. 'The two girls seemed very fond of each other.'"

"Of course; certainly. Why should you not? I long to go, too—though how I have been petted here, to be sure, and what a trial I have been to everybody inside these four walls! I long to see Maryland and Hazel Hall, and the Hilda Burd of whom guardy talks so much. And, oh! one always has so much before one at eighteen. It is abominable to keep you shut up here like a nun. Do not the teachers know the true reason of it?"

Over Paulette's yellow crown he looked at Sibyl. The girl had paused just inside the door, where the light fell upon her rich young beauty—the slim, straight figure, the high-browed face, with its midnight eyes and hair like that of a nut—his and his smiling, his courtly old-school air vanished.

"The name: I did not hear the name," he said, quickly. "I have written it a dozen times in my letters, guardy. Pray, come forward, Sibyl. You two must know each other—you must be friends."

"Sibyl came forward accordingly and bowed to the old soldier. 'I should like you better,' she said, smiling softly, 'if you were not taking him for my best friend.'"

"And so Paulette is gone," they whispered, glibly. "Lucky girl! That old guardian of hers is a Jew for richness. Miss Essay says. He has a great hall on the Chesapeake, built before the Revolution. Oh, the lovers she will have! with a great burst of envy. 'Is it not your turn next, Miss Arnault?' When are you going?"

"Never," answered Sibyl, dryly. "I shall turn nun, no doubt, and take the veil here, and so have done with it." Up in her dormitory that night she sat, staring blankly out into the darkness, while they giggle and jabber around her of lovers and lessons and tricks played on poor Miss Essay. Her own bed, formerly shared with Paulette, remains empty far into the night. She sits with her face glued to the pane, her black eyes fixed upon the cold, rainy night without. Of what is she thinking, that she gazes so steadily?

"Better come to bed, Sibyl," calls one of the girls, sleepily. "You'll get a galling consumption there in the draughts, and spoil your beauty, too, keeping late hours."

"Don't wish Miss Essay could see her at all!" said another. "Hope she hasn't been and fallen in love with any of the professors. Mariana, in the 'Mounted Grange,' never looked half so lovelorn."

Miss Angus, well used to these outbursts, answers only by another sigh and the following:

"The bell has rung for tea, and one must eat and drink, if one's heart is heavy."

"Eat and drink? Yes; though empires fall and life be emptied of every thing that makes it worth having. Sibyl arose from the stair and went gloomily out into the salle-a-manger, where the other pupils were gathered to raven. To tell the truth, she was no great favorite among them, this girl with her fine, high-browed face and extraordinary beauty, who knew so much of herself and of whom everybody else knew so little, and who seemed now to have become a fixture at St. Catharine's."

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Miscellaneous Reading.

PEARY'S WORK IN THE ARCTIC.

He Has Done Much Besides Hunting For the Pole.

Peary did not begin to attract public attention until about 1888, two years after his first visit to Greenland, when he made a modest sledge journey on the inland ice of the southern part of the island. The first thing that drew a little notice to him was a lecture he delivered before the department of geography of the Brooklyn Institute.

This geographical society had been recently organized and its president was casting about for an entertaining lecturer when he happened to think that a man in the government service named Peary had gone up to Greenland and traveled some distance on the inland ice. He knew nothing of Peary's capacity as a lecturer, but he thought the topic was a little unusual and that a description of the journey might help to give the young society a beneficial impulse. Peary gladly consented to come, and the president hit upon the following expedient to attract a little notice to the speaker.

The report happened to fall under the eye of an official of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences and Peary was invited to lecture before that body. The man and his talk kindled interest in himself and his plans. The Philadelphia society did a great deal to make Peary known, and when he started on his first expedition, the total cost of which was \$5,000, half of that sum was supplied by his new friends in the Quaker city. The results of this expedition included 1,300 miles of sledge routes on the inland ice of Greenland and proof that the country was the largest island in the world. This journey made Peary famous, and he was thereafter his own best advertiser.

A great deal has been said in the last week or two about this and that explorer who champions Cook or pins his faith to Peary, as the person best entitled to be called the discoverer of the north pole. There are wheels within wheels, and it is not always possible to know the exact mental attitude which inclines a man to express this or that view. Capt. Sverdrup, the explorer who revealed a considerable number of large islands in the Parry Archipelago, has been in the last few days one of the most earnest supporters of Cook's claims. Perhaps the following facts had no influence in augmenting Sverdrup's enthusiasm for Cook, but it is certain that at one time the feeling between the Norwegian explorer and Peary was not friendly.

Sverdrup sailed north on Nansen's famous ship the Fram in 1899 with a deliberate intention of trying to carry out himself nearly every feature of a programme of research which Peary had outlined in a paper he read before the American Geographical society as the work that would engage him on his next expedition. Sverdrup adopted Peary's plans, including the north pole as his chief aim. It seems remarkable that, with vast unknown areas before him, his friends should approve of his attempt to occupy the field where Peary had for years laboring alone and that he should borrow from the American explorer every idea which he planned to carry out.

Peary was naturally indignant and wrote a paper of protest before he sailed. Sverdrup left behind against the proposed occupancy of his field by the Norwegian. Sverdrup, however, pushed right into Peary's domain, and the only thing that defeated his purpose to attempt to race to the pole against Peary was that he did not succeed in getting his vessel up north through the Smith Sound channels. He stuck in the ice and was a prisoner for many months, while Peary triumphantly returned to the south. Sverdrup was very much disgusted at his bad luck and so he turned south and west among the Parry islands where he made some splendid discoveries.

It should be said for Peary that when these Norwegian appeared on the scene he was careful not to show them any resentment, though far and wide their intention to undertake the same work in the same field was regarded as an act of discourtesy almost unbearable. Even the supply ships that visited Peary from year to year were offered to carry to the Fram anything that the friends of the Norwegian explorers desired to send to them.

Of course, everybody knows that Dr. Cook is accused of similar discourtesy. He deliberately and secretly prepared to enter Peary's field for the distant purpose of carrying out the same work, the discovery of the north pole, toward which Peary had been striving for many years. Cook did this when he knew that the failure of a contractor to complete the work he had agreed to do in fulfilling the Roosevelt within the contract time, would compel Peary to defer his voyage north for a year. If it had not been for the delay thus caused, it is probable that Peary would have reached the north pole long before Cook started on his march to the north pole. Being so much nearer the pole he would have had far less work to do than fell to the lot of Cook on his northern journey.

some of them and bring the meat here on sledges and cache it for me. When I come back I shall need some fresh meat and I shall expect to find it here."

The meat was there when Peary returned. After he got back to Camp Peary he thought it was highly desirable to take home with him a couple of live musk oxen. He said to some of the Esquimaux: "There are plenty of musk oxen over there," indicating a place that was about sixty-five miles away. "The grass is green there now and you will find them grazing. I want two live musk ox calves. I expect you to go there and capture them in any way that you please and to bring them to me safe and sound. I know you will not injure them in any way."

The men started with their sledges and in due time reappeared with two fat calves in perfect condition. They had carried the little animals on their sledges, cutting grass on the route for their provender, keeping them in their tent at night safe from dogs and wolves, and on the last stage of the journey home, when they were crossing ice, where vegetation did not flourish, they fed the calves with grass which they had packed into their kamiks, or boots. This was the first success of Peary's experiment, thus far successful, in the introduction of musk oxen into this country.

The explorer says that on a sledge journey when he had occasion to turn back a sledge with its team and driver, the load it carried having been consumed, he could send the native back with his dogs and empty sledge in perfect confidence that the man and dogs would get home all right. The native would be able to kill all the game he needed on the way. The explorer, however, took the most scrupulous care to provide against suffering and accident on all his routes. In every food cache that he planted on the long route in Smith Sound there was a ration for every man and dog that passed it going north, to be used on the return journey if necessary.

Many persons have the idea that Peary has done little else than hunt for the north pole. It should not be forgotten, however, that the first to announce the fact that Greenland was an island. Many years ago Petermann's Mitteilungen contained an article by its editor, the great Dr. Petermann, giving his reasons for believing that Greenland was of almost continental extent, stretching probably across the pole and down the other side to the neighborhood of Asia. The same publication was the first to announce that Peary had proved that Greenland was an island—a very large island, to be sure, for it is nearly three and a half times as large as France.

He was not searching for the pole when he surveyed more than 600 miles of coast line along the shores of north Greenland and 300 miles of coasts along the northern shores of Greenland. When he was seeking to find the true outline of Greenland he traveled about 2,000 miles over the ice cap of the interior. His journeys on this tremendous ice mass were four or five times as long as those of all the other explorers of its surface. He has reached the pole, but this achievement will never dwarf the value of his great pioneer services to geography in other directions.

Peary never lost faith that the Smith Sound channels were the best route to the pole. After the Naras expedition of 1878, the Smith Sound route as a means of approaching the pole fell into disfavor among Arctic explorers. Peary, however, has always regarded it as one of the most feasible routes, with the distinctive advantage of offering the land base that is nearest the pole. His faith in this route has been justified and he has won the prize by passing through these long channels to the ice covered sea on which he journeyed to the earth's northern axis.

People have generally little idea of the tremendous amount of physical exertion that the Peary parties have expended in these channels. In one season, for example, Peary cached 10,000 pounds of provisions at fifty mile intervals along the 250 miles of the channels in spite of the terrible confusion and obstruction of the ice masses choking these narrow waterways.

Pages might be filled with funny or ridiculous statements that have been made in newspapers, and particularly foreign publications, about Peary and his work. In one of his reports he said, for example, that the itinerary of a journey upon the inland ice might be followed with the precision with which freight trains are run on railroads. This innocuous remark was carried to the foreign press in skeleton form, and the dispatch after being fitted out appeared in the English press in the following remarkable manner: "Lieut. Peary is of the opinion that his expedition has shown that an itinerary of a journey upon the inland ice of Greenland may be followed with precision and that railroads may be laid down and worked."

One of the London editors made this the text of an editorial article in which he solemnly inquired: "Is it possible that Lieut. Peary has overlooked the fact that ice which is moving down toward the sea could never be made a stable basis for a railway track?" More than once Peary has used his faithful natives as mail carriers to deliver letters from the distant camps to whaling vessels far south, which in the course of time have taken them to Dundee, Scotland, to be mailed to their destination in this country. One of these Esquimaux mail carriers brought the only news from Peary that reached this country in a year.

It was after the dawn of spring in 1892 that the explorer and his wife wrote letters to their friends at home telling how the long winter night had passed and that Peary was about to begin his great sledge work which resulted in a survey and map of the 250 miles of coasts of Inglefield gulf. The letters were put in a package and given to one of the Esquimaux, who sledged nearly 200 miles to the south. It was on April 15 that the letter Peary wrote to his wife reached her. She found the package exactly when he said it would. The letter was addressed to the captain of one of the Dundee whalers. At any rate all the letters safely reached Scotland and later were stamped in London December 7, 1892. They were in good condition except that

their coverings bore the traces of great exertion.

Peary has never had the slightest faith in the practicability of aerial navigation in the polar regions. It is doubtful if even now, with all the wonderful progress that has been made in aeronautics, he has changed his view on this question. He has always thought it would scarcely be possible to keep a balloon afloat even for a few days in the higher latitudes, and he has often given this illustration in support of his opinion. When he was slogging on the inland ice of Greenland, a mile and a half above sea level, he usually found that any poles that were stuck upright in the snow when he crawled into his sleeping bag would be covered with a thick layer of hoar frost on the windward side by the time he arose. Peary believed that the effect of such a coating spread over the large area of cloth in a balloon would be entirely to destroy the buoyancy of the airship. It would be interesting to have his views of the new aeroplane as a means of polar transportation.

Many newspapers have recently made the mistake of saying that Dr. Cook on starting from the Greenland coast on his northern journey crossed the Arctic circle and reached the ocean. The fact is that his journey was across that part of the great island which is known as Grinnell Land, while the name Ellesmere Land is entirely confined, on good maps, to the southern part of the island.

This would be a serious blunder in the reports if it appeared in an official work, but it is mentioned here merely to recall the fact that Peary corrected the old idea that Ellesmere Land was separated from Grinnell Land by a wide strait. Peary discovered that these two regions are one and the same land, with different names for their northern and southern parts, and he was thus able to settle one of the most interesting geographical problems of that region.

There were one or two curious resemblances between Peary's slogging experiences in 1896 and those of Cagni, the right hand man of the Duke of the Abruzzi, when he made a record in 1900 that stood for a time as the highest north. Both explorers were greatly delayed by the opening of wide channels in the sea ice and both ran great risks of losing their lives by crossing from one ice field to another on very thin ice.

Peary's party was saved by the fact that it had eight dogs which were used for food. Cagni also was delayed so long by open water that he could not possibly get back to camp before the exhaustion of his food supplies. He therefore picked out eight of his dogs which were to be killed one by one as needed to eke out the rations of the party. They began to eat the dogs, but the contents of Peary's sledge were favorable, and all of the animals became food for explorers.

On the whole, not much has been written of Dr. Cook. The reason is, evidently, because in polar work he has heretofore served in subordinate capacities and his superiors have done more than he to command attention. His first book, "Through the First Antarctic Night," a description of the work of an expedition to the Belgianian south polar expedition, was a book of merit and was favorably received by polar authorities and his comrades in this enterprise. His last book told the story of his visits to Mount McKinley and his claim to have ascended this highest of North American summits. His first expedition to the mountains was described by one of his comrades in a work ridiculing Dr. Cook on every page.

Among the qualities of Dr. Cook is one that has been admired by those who know him well. There have been times in his career when it has seemed to his friends that he had not been kindly treated, that he was snubbed and neglected by those who owed him gratitude. Did any one ever hear Dr. Cook refer to these things or indicate in any way the slightest bitterness of spirit? The writer of these lines, at least, has never heard of any such words of protest, of anger or of criticism. In past years his lips seem to have been sealed against the expression of any unkindly or vindictive sentiment.—New York Sun.

Complexion and Crime. In Europe, it has always been customary to think the criminal type as brunettes—burglars, pirates, villains of the drama and "black bags" of course, complexion of itself has nothing to do with criminality, says the Medical Record, yet there is a reason for the popular tendency to consider the offender class as brunette and the upper types as lighter. The southern drift of the population in Europe has always caused an overlaying of brunette southern types by the bigger, blonder northerners, who have seen the world's beating races virtues, it left the brunette type on the cross as a criminal and lawbreaker.

The poor peasant, then, always had an overlord of lighter complexion than himself. The lady in the castle was blonder than the peasant woman in the hut. Centuries and perhaps thousands of years of these conditions have had the effect of creating the curious impression that what is above us is blonder than we and that which is beneath us darker. Art and literature have been at work crystallizing it in painting and poetry.

The princess is pictured as a blonde, though many of them are dark brunettes; good fairies and angels are almost always given yellow hair, and even dolls "made in Germany" are blondes as a rule. The artist painter Christ as a blue-eyed blonde, though such types probably did not exist in Palestine. The same rule is found in ancient times. Homer's gods and men were frequently fair, and Venus generally blonde, though occasionally given dark eyes. Milton's Eve was a blonde. Greek sculptors quite frequently painted light hair on their statues. The artist painter, however, mentions many illustrations showing the admiration for blue-eyed blondes, among poets, painters and modern time, not only in Italy, but in Spain, France and Germany. The same tendency is shown in the mural decorations of public buildings in America. The blonde being reserved for the ideal in all races of men, it is not surprising that Peary was a blonde, that the virgin generally is, the chiefes on the cross are brunettes, but Christ in their midst is blonde—and there is a wealth of illustration in folklore, and in the fact that dark types are used for the villains.