

THURSDAY AT THREE

By DAVID GRAHAM PHILLIPS

Soon after Fenimore Dayton became a reporter his editor sent him to interview James Mountain. That famous financier was then approaching the zenith of his power over Wall street and Lombard street. It had just been announced that he had "absorbed" the Great Eastern and Western railway system—of course, by the methods which have made some men and some newspapers habitually speak of him as "the royal bandit." The city editor had two reasons for sending Dayton—first, because he did not like him; second, because any other man on the staff would walk about for an hour and come back with a report that Mountain had refused to receive him, while Dayton would make an honest effort.

Seeing Dayton saunter down Nassau street—tall, slender, calm and cheerful—he would never have thought that he was on his way to interview one of the worst-tempered men in New York, for a newspaper which in that peculiarly detested, and on a subject which he did not care to discuss with the public. Dayton turned in at the Equitable building and went up to the floor occupied by Mountain, Ranger and Blakehill. He nodded to the attendant at the door of Mountain's own suite of offices, strolled tranquilly down the aisle between the several rows of desks at which sat Mountain's personal clerks, and knocked at the glass door which was printed "Mr. Mountain" in small gilt letters.

"Come!" It was an angry voice—Mountain's at its worst. Dayton opened the door. Mountain glanced up from the mass of papers bore him. His red forehead became a network of wrinkles and his scant white eyebrows bristled. "And who are you?"

"My name is Dayton—Fenimore Dayton," replied the reporter with a gracefully polite bow. "Mr. Mountain, I believe is possible for Mr. Mountain altogether to resist the impulse to bow in return. Dayton's manner was compelling. "And what the dev—what can I do for you?"

"I'm a reporter from the—"

"What!" roared Mountain, leaping to his feet in a purple, swollen-veined fury. The short hair on the nape of his neck rose; his eyes-teeth gleamed through the hairs of his drooping, ragged mustache. Dayton returned his blazing gaze calmly—he had a curious power of remaining calm before storms of anger without exasperating the stormer.

"How dare you enter here?" Mountain's voice was low. All its force was going into intensity, leaving none for loudness.

"But—why not?" Dayton looked surprised. "No one tried to stop me." "Impudence!" "Pardon me—not impudence." Dayton smiled agreeably. "Impudence is unsuccessful audacity. For example, if you had failed to get the Great Eastern and Western, you would have said you were impudent to try. As it is, men call it audacity. Now, if I failed to get here perhaps—"

calling at the Victoria. There were several New York newspaper men in the lounge. He asked them if they had seen Carpenter. "Just left him," said one. "He was bound for the Criterion." Dayton drove to the Criterion and began a search of the crowded rooms. He soon saw Carpenter wandering about the bar, noting each face as if he were looking for an acquaintance. His clothes, his very expression, proclaimed poverty and failure. And Dayton, knowing his habits, was particularly impressed by the weakness of his chin. But in spite of the air of "hard luck," Carpenter looked the gentleman, the man of superior intelligence. He greeted Dayton effusively, and as soon as the business was disclosed eagerly offered her services.

"There's only one difficulty—will Lord Frampton receive you when he is expecting me?" "We'll have to take our chances on that," said Carpenter.

"But I never take chances if I can help it, I've been thinking—he doesn't know me and he doesn't know you. Why shouldn't you send in one of my cards—imprudent me?" "Carpenter's face brightened. "Yes—that is the best plan," continued Dayton. "With your special knowledge you'll do the interview far better than I could. He'll really profit by his deception."

It was so agreed and Carpenter went away, Dayton advancing him two sovereigns. When he returned the next afternoon his appearance was in every way satisfactory, and Dayton's last misgivings disappeared. He went with Carpenter to the Athenaeum. "It's a little early, old man, but you can send in your card, or rather my card, and wait. And don't forget—you're both under assumed names. If you are calling yourself Dayton when you're Carpenter, isn't he calling himself Frampton when he's Foss?"

"You may rely on me—I'll do my best," said Carpenter. He saw Carpenter enter the club-house, saw him give his card to the attendant. Not until then did he drive away. His heart was light. Fate had been kind to him. On the stroke of three he was in the writing room of Clardige's. Elsie did not keep him waiting.

Miscellaneous Reading.

LIQUOR AT PORT ROYAL

Governor Blease Makes Hot Reply to Secretary Daniels. Columbia, May 22.—When asked if he had anything to say in reply to the statement of Secretary of the Navy Joseph Daniels in regard to the alleged sale of bling liquor around the navy yard at Port Royal, Governor Blease replied in a vigorous statement in which he rectified the efforts to enforce the liquor laws in Beaufort county, mentioning the recent murder of Constable Cooler and the appointment and work of other constables; charged that the statement of Secretary Daniels was inspired by a political enemy of the governor, who accompanied the secretary on his Beaufort trip, and said the United States government had the right in the territory over which it had jurisdiction, including the naval station in question, to enact such laws, rules and regulations as the "grape-juice" administration, as characterized by Governor Blease, of which Secretary Daniels is a part, sees fit.

ALIEN OWNERSHIP

South Carolina Limits Outsiders to 500 Acres

In view of the present international controversy over the passing of an alien land bill by the California legislature, it may be interesting to some to know that on the statute books of this state there is a law prohibiting aliens from owning over 500 acres of land. The California law is directed principally against the acquiring of agricultural lands by foreigners, particularly those of the Mongolian race, though incorporated in the act, which between the United States and Japan, in which it is stated for what purposes lands may be acquired and owned, and farm land does not, it seems, come within the treaty rights. However, to allow foreigners to engage for awhile, at least, in agriculture in California there is a provision that agricultural lands may be leased for a period of three years.

AMERICAN LIGHTHOUSES

Uncle Sam's Beacon Service is the Most Extensive of its Kind.

The sea coast line under the jurisdiction of the United States is 48,331 statute miles, measured in three-mile steps. The general government provides lighthouses and other aids to navigation along all this coast, with the exception of the Philippine Islands, 11,511 miles, and Panama, where the marking of the coasts is maintained by the local governments. In addition, the United States provides lights along the American shore of the Great Lakes, 4,020 miles and on interior and coastal rivers, 5,478 miles.

PROHIBITION IN KANSAS

Where Men are Behind the Law, It Works to Perfection.

Hon. John B. Dawson, attorney general of Kansas, delivered an address at Chicago April 19, on "What Prohibition Has Done for Kansas." The constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale in the state, of intoxicating liquors except for medical, scientific and mechanical purposes was adopted in November, 1888. It has therefore been in operation long enough to afford a reasonable test of the effects of state-wide prohibition. Mr. Dawson acknowledges that for quite a number of years the law was openly defied in many of the larger towns and cities. It took a long and bitter fight for the people of Kansas to convince the law defying liquor interests that they were really in earnest about banishing the infamous traffic from their state. But they are convinced at last and for some time the prohibition laws of the state have been as consistently enforced as those against other common forms of criminal conduct. In estimating the results of prohibition, however, allowance must be made for the delay occasioned by this protracted battle against anarchy, and yet, in spite of these drawbacks, the results are thoroughly convincing. Here are a few of the more important of them.

EARLY WORLD RECORDS

Fossil Animals and Plants Constitute the Geologist's Key.

The work of the United States geological survey in paleontology—the study of fossil remains of animals and plants that lived ages ago—has a distinct bearing on some of the very practical economic problems of today. The descriptive paleontologic reports are often treated as "pure science," yet instructive, striking or tedious as may be these delineations of the groups of animal or plant life which lived on the globe in some particular epoch there is no one of these papers describing the fauna or flora of a formation that does not prove sooner or later to possess practical value and to be essential to geology in its constantly increasing refinement of its science and results.

THE LOWER LIMB

Farmer Green Says It's So and It Ain't—The Philosophy of it.

Trees grow by sections, say a foot each year. When the cold weather comes along in the fall and the foliage is killed by the frost, the tree ceases to grow until spring. When the sap rises and growth begins again, it starts right where it stopped in the fall and the lower part of the tree doesn't grow at all, except that it takes on a new ring on the outside, just as does the top to take on another length. Therefore, we say trees grow by rings, each ring representing one year of the tree's age. If a limb is near the top of a tree, it therefore grows up with that year's growth of the tree. But when the top leaves it standing in a last year's growth of the tree, it has reached its limit and another limb may possibly be cut away from the trunk on going high every year, because the limbs on small trees do grow higher from the ground, while those on large ones remain the same distance from gravitation—Marshallville Home.