

# From the Ambassador's Box

By A. M. DAVIES OGDEN  
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The big flower filled drawing room was brilliant with afternoon sunshine. Through the open window came the sound of the trot of horses' feet as they passed on the broad "Unter den Linden." Ransome Prentice looked about him with a sigh of satisfaction. It was good to be back in Berlin. Then he smiled at the girl who was handing him a cup of tea.

"So here I am at last," he said. "And now, tell me the news. You left America so suddenly that I had no chance to come and bid you goodby. How do you like your elevation to the rank of ambassador's daughter? And has anything exciting happened there? You see, I had to follow just to hear it all." The girl hesitated, playing with the spoons on the dainty tea table.

"There is not much to tell," she answered slowly. "And yet there is one thing," glancing across at him. "I think you will be pleased, as it is largely due to your instrumentalities, I should never have known him. I quickly had it not been that, owing to your old friendship, I already felt as if he were no stranger when we met. Of course you can guess whom I mean. It is not announced yet, but I am going to marry Max von Witzleben."

The man's cup clattered into his saucer. "You—to marry Max?" he repeated. Then, "Do you—do you care for him so much?" he asked.

"For a moment Miss Freeman frowned. But it was only Ransome. He and she had always tensed and questioned and confided in each other. Yet she seemed out of place in the room. "I—I do not think that I am the kind to care very deeply for any one," she said soberly. "I admire Max. Yes, he always told me how noble he was; how brave. And I adore bravery. My idea of his character is really drawn largely from your letters."

Freeman's face lit up a smile. "It was an enthusiastic chap in those days," he commented dryly. "I hope you have some better foundation for your affection than letters written by a boy in the university. But I am forgetting what was partly my errand this afternoon. 'Buffalo Bill' is to open his Berlin tomorrow afternoon. I thought perhaps you would like to go. It is only patriotic for the Americans to turn out. Should you care?" Miss Freeman nodded.

"I suppose it would be the proper thing to do," she agreed. "I have not seen 'Buffalo Bill' since I was a child. They sent father a box, but he does not care to go, and I had not thought about it. Suppose you come with us. I will ask Max, and we can take Franklin."

# A THEATRICAL TRICK

IT FOOLED JOE JEFFERSON, AND IT FOOLED THE PUBLIC TOO.

The Story of an Ovation That Was Given to the Great Actor on One Occasion When He Was Playing Rip Van Winkle in Baltimore.

"The best story on Joe Jefferson was never printed during his lifetime, and the kindly old gentleman himself went to his reward without ever having heard it," said the advance agent, "for none of the people around him ever got things going. He told him that he had emerged from the alley at that dear public whose attention he heralds of art were endeavoring to catch."

"It was years ago in Baltimore. Jefferson opened on a Monday night in 'Rip Van Winkle,' and, although he was always a prime favorite with the audience, that evening the attendance that evening for the week had been over good. The folks in front of the house cast their eyes over the ticket rack and came to the conclusion that unless something unusual was done the receipts would not be as large as they should be. Well, when the business end of a show reaches that point things are liable to be doing in the good old 'con' line within a very limited space of time, and the boys on Jefferson's payroll, if they were not the saltiest at that sort of thing, were certainly not the slowest in the profession. We put our heads together and arrived at the conclusion that what was needed for good, fast press notices was some remarkable popular manifestation of appreciation of genius. I don't mean the clapping from the orchestra nor the cat calls from the gallery, but something that would set the town talking. We thought long over the various schemes suggested, but none of them appeared to be just the proper one for the purpose. Suddenly the office boy, who was as retiring as the usual run of office boys around a theater, butted in with, 'Say, why don't you have him dragged?'"

"'Dragged—what's that?' I asked. "Why, have him rushed after by a howling mob of admirers. Have them un hitch his horse and drag him off to his hotel with their own hands. And say, gee whiz, I've got it! Let the bunch that does it be Johns Hopkins boys!"

"That ain't bad for the kid," remarked the assistant treasurer patronizingly. "But who are these Johns Hopkins boys going to get your Johns Hopkins boys? You don't think they're lying around waiting to turn themselves into a bevy of Roman chariot chasers, do you?"

"Oh, say, you're dead slow," replied the office boy, with every indication of disgust. "Come with me down on East Market street, and in ten minutes I'll have you the greatest bunch of students you ever saw."

"Not knowing the town very well then, I was puzzled at how Hopkins students were to be found on Market street and so said. "Why, they ain't students at all," explained the office boy. "They're bums, the worst lot of can chasers in the town, and there are hundreds of them. For 50 cents a head for the day you can get all of them you want. Get thirty or forty, dress them in store clothes that you can get at any old customer's—baggy trousers all turned up at the bottom, short coats with a southwestern exposure, dirty hats with colored bands, jaunty little bird egg caps and sassy, slap-on-the-wrist sort of canes—and the rest'll be easy money."

# A LAND OF WONDERS.

Some of the Queer Things That Are to Be Found in Korea.

Three scientists, two from America and the other from Britain, are reported to have spent several months in Korea trying to elucidate the wonders of that strange land.

The wonders in question consist of a hot mineral spring which is supposed to heal anything from a cut to a cancer; two springs so arranged that when one is full the other is empty; a cavern in the mountains in which a cold, piercing wind rages perpetually; the green grove of pine trees which will sprout again directly they are cut down; a stone which floats in space, and, last, but not least, a rock which gives forth great heat however cold the weather might be.

The scientists studied the springs first of all, and failing to understand them, turned their attention to the wonderful cavern. The moment they entered the interior they were almost blown off their feet, and although they adopted all manner of dodges to find the origin of the wind, they had to return to the open sadder but not wiser men.

They next walked into the grove of pine trees, known as the "Incalculable forest," and here again they were astounded. They destroyed several of the trees by fire during the night, and next morning they were regrowing strongly out of the very ashes!

The fifth wonder of Korea, the floating stone, in honor of which a temple has been built, tried the scientists' patience to a maddening degree. This stone, to all appearance, rests on the ground, yet when two of the men stood upon it, one on each side, the third was able to draw a thick string underneath without encountering any obstacle. Why, they were never able to discover.

The last wonder, also puzzled their brains. This rock is really an immense stone, on the top of which a small inn has been erected. The building requires no fires for heating purposes either in winter or summer, for the rock always keeps it warm.

The scientists jumped to the conclusion that the stone was situated over an underground volcano which still had life in it, but on taking soundings they found that they were mistaken. There was no natural furnace below; indeed, the ground was quite cold, if not a trifle damp.—Pearson's Weekly

# EXERCISE THE EYES

GYMNASTICS THAT MAY WORK AWAY THE NEED FOR GLASSES.

A Course of Treatment Which Will Strengthen the Muscles and Which Is Indorsed by an Expert in the Treatment of the Eyes.

Eye gymnastics constitute one of the applications of the principles of practical physical culture as employed for the purpose of restoring normal conditions to the diseased body. Anything which will obviate the necessity of putting on glasses is to be welcomed, as everybody who has become a slave to spectacles will agree. In many cases of muscular weakness of the eye certain exercises which may be taken at home without apparatus will result in a cure. The symptoms of muscular weakness include pain through the eyes and a tendency on the part of the lids to close. Sometimes it becomes difficult to keep the eyes open, and there is a vague sensation as though some invisible force was tugging at one side of the eye until the victim wonders if he is not becoming strabismic. In such cases strong glasses support the weakened muscles and relieve the symptoms, but they do not effect a cure. Sometimes they are necessary, but often, on the contrary, persistent and systematic exercising of the muscles will restore them to a condition of health.

Let the first exercise be taken for the purpose of strengthening the muscles of accommodation. Extend the hand at arm's length with the first finger pointing upward. Fix both eyes on this digit and slowly bring it toward the face until it touches the tip of the nose. Then slowly carry it away from the face again until the first position is reached. Do this three or four times at first, keeping both eyes constantly upon the raised finger throughout the operation described.

The second exercise consists in turning the glance upward and then downward as far as possible without altering the position of the face. Repeat this two or three times at the first trial, and then vary the exercise and bring a new set of muscles into play by turning the eyes first to the right and then to the left as far as possible, the face remaining motionless. After two or three movements of this character, with the face still in the same position, carry the glance to its full extent first to the upper right hand corner of the eye, after that to the lower left hand corner, then to the upper left hand corner and from there to the lower right hand corner.

To complete the series of exercises rotate the eyeballs in their sockets two or three times, causing the glance to reach the extreme limit of vision in making the circle.

It is necessary that these exercises be employed with caution at first, for otherwise they will tire the muscles and bring on dizziness or headaches. The fact may be hard to realize, but the whole practice is exactly the same in character and effect as the exercising of the muscles of the arm or leg, and it is just as certain that the muscles of the eye will be strengthened and developed by the movements described.

Persons who are troubled with weak eyes may often secure considerable benefit from the use of the eye cup. This is a small receptacle of thick blue glass and so constructed that when inverted it fits tightly over the eye. It costs 15 or 20 cents at the drug stores and should be used at night and morning. The eye cup is employed for the purpose of applying salt and water to the eye as a tonic. The proportions should be a level teaspoonful of salt to a pint of water. The latter should have been warmed to about the heat of the body. Fill the cup with the solution and place it over the eye. Then turn the head backward and open the lids. It will be found that there is no unpleasant feeling whatever from the contact of the salt solution with the eye. As a matter of fact, this solution is almost identical with the saline fluids of the eye. Should the water be used without the salt it would cause the eye to smart painfully.

# THE TICK OF A CLOCK.

In a recent police court squabble over a clock one man testified that he could identify the timepiece in question by the tick.

This statement was received with derision by most of the courtroom judges, the magistrates included, but later a watchmaker to whose attention it had been called declared that the scoffers laughed before they knew what they were laughing at.

"Of course you can tell a clock by its tick," he said. "I don't mean that every clock has an individual tick that can be recognized by its friends, but many of them have, and a person who has owned a certain clock for a long while and has studied its style and mannerisms can, if he has a good ear, detect that particular tick among a hundred. Many clocks that are appraised made on the same plan develop peculiarities in their running gear. Some center along at an even pace, others go by jerks and spurts. Some are stately and solemn, others frisky and gay. The ticking of clocks varies, too, in rhythm, pitch and dynamics. With all these differences in tone it is any wonder that a man who has measured his life by one clock for several years can swear even in court to its particular tick?"—New York Post.

**Problematic Children.** Everything is relative, after all, even age, yet one might suspect that the "children" of one of Mr. Muzzey's "Men of the Revolution" might have arrived at years of some discretion and proper regard for behavior.

"When I saw the old soldier, says Mr. Muzzey, he was the sole survivor of the battle of the Marston, and he was at the age of ninety-five years he was attending a Whig celebration held at Boston in 1850, and there I met him. He was a good looking old man with a large, well shaped head, blue eyes and mild expression. His whole countenance beamed with benevolence.

"I asked him if he had any children. "Oh, yes, I have two sons," he replied. "Why did you not bring them with you?"

The old man's smooth brow wrinkled into a semblance of a frown as he said: "I didn't want to be plagued with those boys on an occasion of this sort." "Why, boy, old are they?" I asked, wondering if he could mean his grandchildren.

"Oh, one is seventy, and the other is seventy-two. But I couldn't be bothered with them."

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