

A BIT OF DIPLOMACY.

CLEVER TRICK OF AN ENGLISH GOVERNOR OF THE PORT OF ADEN.

The Curious Story Connected With the White House of Bab-el-Mandeb. A Monument of the Undoing of a French Admiral.

On the foreshore of the Arabian coast in the strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, at the southern entrance to the Red sea, stands a large white house concerning which the travelers to the far east may hear a curious story.

In the mind of the governor curiosity was at once aroused as to the destination of so large a command, a curiosity which increased as he found it impossible to extract any further information from the French admiral or his officers beyond the statement that they were upon an ordinary cruise, an explanation which the former was not the least inclined to believe.

Firm in the belief, therefore, that some political move of great importance was afoot if not afoot, the governor, in order first of all to gain time, gave orders to go very tortoiselike on the repairs and then set to work to take the Frenchmen off their guard by giving a succession of such entertainments as both his slender means and the awful barrenness of the place would afford.

But though at the end of two weeks the French and British officers had got upon the best of terms the immediate destination of the French squadron remained as much of a mystery to the governor of Aden as before, and in spite of all possible delay the repairs were nearly completed.

Now, it happened that the wife of the governor possessed an Irish maid, who had been receiving attentions from one of the French petty officers—attentions which the girl did not regard seriously. It occurred to the governor that by such means something might be learned of his unexpected visitor's plans, and a private conversation between the governor's wife and her maid resulted in another between the latter and her French admirer, by which it was discovered that Perim island was the objective point.

At this information the governor opened his eyes wide indeed, for, if the Suez canal were cut through, Perim, as commanding the southern entrance to the Red sea, in the middle of the strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, would be a place of great strategic importance, over which, without doubt, it was the intention of the French admiral to hoist the tricolor.

Secretly giving orders, therefore, for a gunboat to immediately embark a detachment of soldiers and steal away in the night for Perim island, the governor then announced a farewell banquet and ball for the day but one following, a final act of courtesy with which the French admiral would willingly have dispensed, for he was anxious to sail, but which he could not well refuse on account of the use he had made of the British supplies and machinery at Aden.

So the dinner and party in due course came off, the governor being in high spirits, because in the meantime he had received the news of the occupation of Perim, which under the circumstances would surely be followed by the longed for promotion, and the French admiral was equally happy, for he hoped on the morrow to add the same important little speck of land to the dominion of his own country, thereby covering his breast with the stars and himself with maritime glory.

Next day, after an interchange of cordial farewells, the French squadron sailed away to an apparently unknown destination, until, when clear of the land, the course was laid full speed direct for Perim island.

Then what was the dismay and disappointment of the French admiral and his officers when, on coming in sight of their destination, they beheld the British flag flying and a company of soldiers drawn up to give them a proper salute. It is said the French admiral was so mortified at being thus outwitted that he first flung his cocked hat overboard and then followed it himself into the sea.

Be this as it may, as Perim was clearly already occupied by the British, the only counter move which the French could make was to take possession of a strip of the foreshore on the opposite Arabian coast, where they built the fortified white house in question, but as the place was entirely at the mercy of the guns on Perim island it was shortly abandoned, to remain to this day as a monument of a French admiral's undoing.—Exchange.

Reaching an Understanding.

The young man was visibly annoyed at the questions which the heiress' father insisted on putting. At last he could endure it no longer. His ancestral pride flamed up into his cheeks, and he exclaimed:

"I would have you understand that I am no ordinary fortune hunter." "That's all right," was the stern rejoinder. "I am just as particular as you are. I'd have you understand that I am no plain, everyday duke chaser either."—Washington Star.

A Remarkable Liniment.

The humorist of the Cynthiana (Ky.) Democrat remarks: "One of the surgeons of Cynthiana has discovered a valuable liniment. The other day he used it on the leg of a politician who had scarcely been able to walk for several years. Now the politician is running for office. Another trial was on a friend's arm. The friend immediately struck him for ten."

FAUST'S WILD CHARGE.

It Sent Marguerite Flying In Terror From the Stage.

The name of the hero of this anecdote I shall not give you, for he has long since been gathered to his fathers. Let it suffice that in his heyday he was one of the greatest tenors who ever sang to a breathless and enthusiastic audience. He had a penchant, however, for the red, red wine, which in the end proved his undoing and ultimately provided a pathetic ending for an otherwise great career.

At one time, when he was singing Faust to Emma Abbott's Marguerite, he appeared at the opera house in an apparently hopeless condition. The management was wild, but there was no one to take his place, and so they had to chance it with him as Faust. All went well until they came to that scene where Faust, in leaving Marguerite, crosses the stage and then, giving way to an impulse, rushes back and kisses Marguerite yet once again ere taking his departure.

Faust on this occasion got to the other side of the stage all right, but trouble arose when he tried to get back. Marguerite sits in the window of her cottage, and Faust comes back and kisses her through the window. Faust measured the distance with a wabbling eye, but made a start when his cue was given. Then he seemed to lose control of himself. One-quarter way across he was trotting, one-half way the trot was a run, and the remainder of the way it had become a gallop.

Up to this point Miss Abbott stood her ground bravely, but that rapidly approaching figure awed her, and with a frightened scream she fled. Faust, poor Faust, charged on. He reached the place he had last seen Marguerite and essayed to clasp the atmosphere in outstretched arms. Then his impetus carried him through the window, and all that the astounded audience looked upon were his waving legs. Somebody pushed him back, and, absolutely undisturbed, he finished the opera, singing in an unusually superb manner. Not so with the unfortunate Marguerite, however, for from then on she was suffering from a case of "rattles," which in simple justice should have been the property of Faust.—New York Tribune.

PRETTY IRISH GIRLS.

Why the Lasses of the Emerald Isle Are Beautiful.

The Irish peasant girls have long been famous for their beautiful, clear skins and healthy complexions. They owe much of their loveliness to the moisture of the climate and the simplicity of their lives. Plain, wholesome fare and rainwater for the wash basin tell their own tale. No matter how homely are the features of the genuine peasant girl, her skin is almost invariably soft and firm, the arms nicely rounded, the eyes brilliant and expressive.

There are no eyes finer than those of the healthy daughter of Erin's isle. Soft and tender one moment, to flash with passion if aroused; dark blue, gray or brown, the Irish eye is peculiarly lovely and possesses a luster all its own. Long lashes shadow these bewitching orbs—lashes that curl upward to sweep the cheek when the face is betrayed into blushes.

So much time is spent out of doors that the feet, usually bare, become enlarged. The ankle, however, is usually well shaped and neat, the instep high and the skin of baby fineness. The Irish girl of humble station is proud of her shapely feet and believes that walking through the grass before sunrise in summer enhances their beauty, which, of course, it does.

No need to powder that fair skin—it owes its peachy bloom to health, happiness and the freedom of outdoor life; no need to resort to the rouge pot—the roses are there hard and fast, nature's own coloring. The hands may be rough by hard work, not diminutive, but shapely; the hair burnished and often luxuriant.—London Answers.

HUMOR OF THE HOUR.

It came to the Englishman's turn. "That reminds me," he said, "of a fenced clever conundrum. Ah, let me see. What is that that is covered with feathers and stands on one leg and barks like a dog?"

"Covered with feathers, stands on one leg and barks like a dog, eh? Give it up. What is it?"

"A stork, of course—ha, ha!" laughed the Englishman.

"Oh!" His companions were silent for a moment. One of them scratched his cheek and looked puzzled.

"I'm sorry," he said at last, apologetically, "but I don't quite tumble. The feathers and the standing on one leg are all right—but how about barking like a dog?"

The Englishman smiled and stroked his moustache.

"Well, to tell you the truth," he said, "that was my own idea—to—make the answer more difficult, don't you know."—New York Sun.

In Former Days.

Tears clung to the long lashes of Egypt's queen, to say nothing of the headless slave who weltered in his blood at the foot of her gorgeous divan. It was plain that the daughter of the pharaohs had received evil tidings.

In the streets the newsboys could be heard hawking The Evening Monolith. "All about the football game! Corinth Latin school, 10; Alexandria Polytechnic, 8," they were shouting.

"Now, wouldn't that scald you!" faltered the queen and burst into tears.—Detroit Journal.

MOST COSTLY OF DRUGS.

Some Sell at Retail For More Than Their Weight In Gold.

"The price of many drugs used in medicine is astonishing to those who are not acquainted with the subject," remarked a druggist. "There are several that are worth their weight in gold (about \$20 an ounce), while \$2, \$3 or \$5 an ounce are quite common prices in pharmacy. I filled a prescription the other day that cost \$25. But there is one drug that I can recall which is worth much more than its weight in gold. That is pseudo physostigmine. I don't think that it has a popular name. It is too rich for that. In the pharmacists' list it is quoted at \$1 a grain, or \$437.50 an ounce. The seed from which the drug is made grows in India and Brazil, as well as in parts of South Africa. This seed, tradition says, was once used by native chiefs as an ordeal. The ordeal generally resulted in the death of the man upon whom it was tried and so was considered as a great truth finder. The prepared drug is sometimes used now in prescriptions for the treatment of heart disease.

"Another drug which takes the palm for costliness is, curiously enough, the one which is perhaps the most widely known by name of them all to the general public—namely, musk. Its retail price at the present moment is about \$50 an ounce, \$600 a pound apothecary, or 2 1/2 times the value of pure gold, 24 carats fine. It is obtained from the musk deer, a very rare animal, and is contained in a follicle, of which there is only one in each animal, so that an ounce of the drug represents approximately one of these precious animals. As it is largely used for scent, the demand constantly exceeds the supply, and the price has been steadily advancing. There is no reason why it should not go to \$250 or \$500 an ounce during the next few years, as the musk deer is gradually vanishing from the face of the earth."—Kansas City Journal.

BEWARE OF THE STRAP.

A Possible Source of Infection to Those Who Ride in Street Cars.

The connection between the microbe and the street car strap has frequently been discussed and at least one recent instance has proved somewhat distressing, viz, twenty-two. The authority quoted for the former word is one Byfield, a divine, who, in a treatise on Colossians, published in 1615, wrote: "The immensity of Christ's divine nature hath . . . incircumscribability in respect of place." In the recent biography of Dr. Benson is an entry from the Archbishop's diary to the effect that "the Free Kirk of the North of Scotland, are strong antidisestablishmentarians," twenty-six letters.—London Temple Magazine.

Berlin, May 28.—Special dispatches from St. Petersburg assert that Dr. Hendrik Muller and Dr. Leyds, representing the Boer republics, have appealed formally to The Hague Arbitration Court, promising to abide by the decision of the tribunal regarding the issues involved in the South African war.

Washington, May 28.—Ninety-seven per cent. of the machinists in the employ of the Southern Railway have voted to strike for the nine-hour day, and are now awaiting the orders of President James O'Connell, of the International Association of Machinists, before going out.

St. Louis, May 28.—At a meeting of the board of directors of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company today the recommendation of the committee on organization that President Francis be given authority to arrange to reserve a site for a Louisiana Purchase Exposition building at the Charleston, S. C., Exposition was approved.

A Georgia newspaper says: "A gentleman near Durango owns a bird dog which is especially good at fetching things out of water. In order to show a friend what the dog could do, he threw a 50 cent piece into the water and told the dog to fetch it. The dog dived and brought back a two-pound cat-fish and 35 cents in change."

One Improvident Family.

The minister in an adjoining Tennessee town was very much wrought up over the pitiful condition of a parishioner's family. He went to their home and, finding they were almost starving, decided that something should be done for them. He accordingly solicited contributions for their relief. Receiving a liberal response, he promptly turned over the money to the suffering ones, thinking that all would be well.

The first thing they did, however, was to go to the photographer of the town and have a dozen pictures made of each of the five members of the family, exhausting the amount, leaving them in as bad condition as they were before he had given them assistance.—Memphis Scimitar.

Ingratitude.

"No, I won't give you a piece of my apple," snapped his sister.

"And who was it," the boy inquired reproachfully, "that spoiled the piano so you didn't have to practice for a week?"—Philadelphia Times.

Easy.

"Fame," said the youth with the earnest intellectual expression, "is so hard to attain! It is so difficult for one to get himself talked about!"

"Humph!" rejoined the woman with cold blue eyes and a firm jaw. "You just ought to live up in our neighborhood."—Washington Star.

Preparation For Confession.

A priest was engaged in instructing and catechizing a Russian boy. Presently he said, "Now, my boy, tell me what you must do by way of preparing for confession and penance." "Sin, your reverence," was the unexpected answer.—London Telegraph.

Inopportune.

"I just saw the young Widow Weeds. She looked just charming in her mourning," said the pretty woman.

"I suppose," remarked her crotchety husband, "that you wouldn't mind being a widow yourself."

"Oh, it's hateful of you to talk that way, when you know I've got a blue silk waist that I haven't worn yet."—Philadelphia Press.

Mrs. McKinley's Condition Again Critical.

Washington, May 30.—Much anxiety is felt at the White House tonight as to the condition of Mrs. McKinley. Since her return to Washington this morning she has not rallied as was expected. On the contrary she had passed a very uncomfortable day, and the president had to abandon his intended participation in the Decoration Day ceremonies at Arlington. The President has been by the bedside of his invalid wife the greatest part of the day with Dr. Rixley.

This evening Mrs. McKinley's condition was regarded as serious enough to justify the calling in of Dr. W. W. Johnston, one of the most distinguished "last resort" physicians in this vicinity. Surgeon General Sternburg, of the army, has also been called in consultation, and the gravest apprehensions are felt as to what the result may be. The journey home from California is said to have been made at the earnest solicitation of Mrs. McKinley.—R. M. L. in the News and Courier.

GEN. SCHOEMAN KILLED.

Pretoria, May 28.—The Boer General Schoeman and his daughter have been killed and his wife and two others have been badly injured by the explosion of a shell.

Gen. Schoeman, his family and some friends were examining a 4 1/2 inch lyddite shell which they kept in the house as a curiosity, when the shell exploded, killing the general on the spot and mortally wounding his daughter and severely injuring his wife and two other persons.

Gen. Schoeman was a great Krugeri. He led the commando of Colesburg and surrendered on the occupation of Pretoria. He was afterwards captured by the Boers and released when the British occupied Barberton. The general then went on a peace mission, and was taken by the Boers and was again released when the British took Pietersburg. Since that time Gen Schoeman has resided in Pretoria.

The editor of the New English Dictionary points out in his note to "Infer" that those who are interested in the length of words will observe that incircumscribability has as many letters as honorificabilitudinitas, viz, twenty-two. The authority quoted for the former word is one Byfield, a divine, who, in a treatise on Colossians, published in 1615, wrote: "The immensity of Christ's divine nature hath . . . incircumscribability in respect of place." In the recent biography of Dr. Benson is an entry from the Archbishop's diary to the effect that "the Free Kirk of the North of Scotland, are strong antidisestablishmentarians," twenty-six letters.—London Temple Magazine.

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Table with columns: Date, No., No., No., No. and rows for Le Florence, Le Kingstree, Ar Lanes, Le Lanes, Ar Charleston.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

Table with columns: No., No., No., No. and rows for Le Charleston, Ar Lanes, Le Lanes, Le Kingstree, Ar Florence.

\*Daily fDaily except Sunday.

No. 62 runs through to Columbia via Columbia R. R. S. C.

Trains Nos. 73 and 72 run via Wadesboro and Fayetteville—Short Line—and make close connection for all points North.

Trains on C. & P. R. R. have Florence leave except Sunday 9:50 a.m., arrive Darlington 9:15 a.m., Hartselle 9:15 a.m., Cheroh 11:30 a.m., Wadesboro 2:25 p.m., Leave Florence daily except Sunday 7:55 p.m., arrive Darlington 8:20 p.m., Bennettsville 9:1 p.m., Gibbes 9:45 p.m., Leave Florence Sunday only 9:30 a.m., arrive Darlington 10:05 a.m.

Leave Gibbes daily except Sunday 6:0 a.m., Bennettsville 7:00 a.m., arrive Darlington 8:00 a.m., leave Darlington 8:50 a.m., arrive Florence 9:15 a.m. Leave Wadesboro daily except Sunday 3:00 p.m., Cheroh 4:4 p.m., Hartselle 7:05 a.m., Darlington 6:2 a.m., arrive Florence 7:00 p.m. Leave Darlington Sunday only 9:50 a.m., arrive Florence 9:15 a.m.

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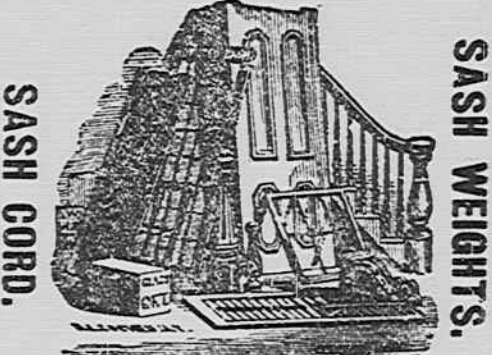
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