

VEXED BY GOLD FIND

QUICKLY-GOTTEN TREASURE
PLAGUE OF THEIR LIVES

Entanglements of a legal nature beset the paths of Messrs. Melville E. Wygant and John T. Redmond, two gold finders of Staten Island. The former owner of the property upon which the treasure was found has made a demand of \$40,000 upon Mr. Wygant. Another member of the family has appeared to accept \$200 for his claim. Every mail brings demands for gold. Their pot of treasure has become the plague of the discoverers' lives.

On this account they have spent anxious nights since they sprang into fame. They say that they stood over the treasure with shotguns, reinforced by bulldogs. One of the animals, according to Mr. Wygant, while performing his duty, was poisoned.

Legend of Treasure.

That at least a considerable quantity of the precious metal had been found there can be no doubt. Mr. John T. Redmond told the legend which accounted for the presence of the treasure. The occupant of the house a century and a half ago built a tower,



THE OLD FIREPLACE.

on which were kindled beacons. These luring many a grand ship to destruction of the chill waters of the Kill von Kull. The wreckers abstracted doubloons from Spanish galleons and Louis d'Ors from French barks. These ill-gotten gains are said to have been placed in the identical kettle which was found by Mr. Wygant and Mr. Redmond. They had engaged the services of Mr. Thomas Brown, an eminent young attorney, some days before they secured the contract for the demolition of the old house, which resulted in finding the treasure.

Everybody in Port Richmond knows "Mel" Wygant and his livery stable. He is a man of large dimensions and a merry eye. He is around fifty, and is counted one of the richest men in the village. He owns many houses. The story that he had found a lot of gold under the ruins of the old Hatfield house excited the whole village to the fever point. The old house was a landmark, and was over a hundred years old. For all that time it was the home of the Hatfields. Many tales are told of the Hatfields. The original Hatfield owned over 100 acres of land in the vicinity. The last Hatfield to live in the old house was John D. He died in 1822. Then it fell into the hands of John J. Hatfield. Mr. Charles Rosenberg, a wealthy New York merchant, bought the farm, and is cutting it into lots. The house was torn down to get it out of the way. After removing the house the contractor sold the stone to Mr. Wygant for \$10. It was while digging in the masonry that he and Mr. Redmond found the pot containing it is said, \$40,000 in gold.

The gold is kept carefully hidden away in a safe somewhere on the island. Unless the claimants can identify it they cannot sue for its recovery, and the finders do not mean to

let them identify it. They have hired a lawyer to take charge of the case.

Curious Christian Names.

One of the most curious names ever bestowed upon a girl is Airs and Graces. She is now about 3 years old, her name being registered at Somerset House, London, in 1898, when she was baptized. Her sister's name is equally unusual, Nun Niver. When Airs and Graces and Nun Niver arrive at the age of maturity at least one of them should marry a youth whose Christian



HATFIELD HOUSE.



MELVILLE E. WYGANT.

name compares favorably, for example: Acts of the Apostles.

This is a name found in an English parish register: Acsapostle, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Pegden, was baptized Aug. 2, 1795. Again this name figures in records in 1833, when Acts of the Apostles, son of Richard and Phebe Kennett, was baptized. This name, curious as it is, is preferable to What, or Dun Spiro Spero, names with which children have been handicapped. It was a patriotic American who bestowed upon his young hopeful the name of Declaration of Independence. A most warlike name is Robert Alma Balacava Inkerman Sebastopol Delhi Dugdale, who is an English innkeeper's son. A similar name is Richard Coeur de Lion Tyler Walter Hill.

Russia's Mighty Navy.

Russia's fleet consists of 22 first-class battleships, yielding to none in the world in excellence and perfection, though three or four of the Japanese battleships have certain qualities of superior weight; one second-class battleship, 16 coast defense ships, and 23 cruisers of the first-class, or fully armored. Twenty-three battleships and 23 cruisers, therefore, may stand as the backbone of Russia's naval strength, a force well seconded by full complements of coast defense ships, second and third-class cruisers, gunboats, torpedo boats, torpedo destroyers, transports, auxiliaries and all that pertains to them. The Russian heavy guns are second to none and the batteries of 6-inch and 4.7-inch quick-firing guns leave nothing to wish for. The secondary small arm batteries are likewise perfectly equipped. The Russian warships are, in fact, the most numerous armed in the world.

Hill's Rise from a Day Laborer.

James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railroad company, and now worth many millions, was at one time a day laborer in St. Paul, Minn. He was a stalwart, husky American and of

ARE PAINTED TOO BLACK.

Spiders Are Deserving of More Consideration Than They Receive.

"There are many kinds of spiders besides those that annoy the housewife with their webs stuck up in the corners of the rooms and in the windows where she has been too busy with the sewing to look after the house much," says a recent writer on scientific subjects, "but every kind is an appetite on eight legs and thoroughly convinced that no one can be strong and hearty that lives on vegetables. They all spin more or less, whence their name, which is a contraction of spider or spinner. Also, they bite, and if you listen to all the fool stories that are told, when a spider bites you you will save time by sending for the lawyer to make your will and telegraph for the boys to come home at once if they want to see you alive. But I will tell you as between educated people that know a thing or two and do not get scared over every little trifle that a spider's bite is no worse than a mosquito's—not so bad, in fact. A big spider can kill a small bird with its poison, but it only makes a man's arm swell up and hurt for a day or less and not hurt very much at that. Bertkau could not feel the ordinary domestic spider on the thick skin of his hand, and only between the fingers could the spider make a puncture like that of a dull pin. The worst result was that it itched a little. Blackwall had them draw blood, but that was all. Though one spider bit another so hard that its liver ran out it lived for more than a year afterward. As for these terrible tarantulas, even the stories told about victims having to dance till they fell down in exhaustion in order to escape death and

madness were tremendous whoppers or tarantulas don't bite as bad as they used to. It is true that in those days the Italian violinists had to work overtime composing tarantelles to play for the bitten, but still there were sneering skeptics that said it was all a scheme got up to pass the hat for the wife and family of the suffering man whom a malignant spider had bitten while he was out looking for a job. Dufour had a tarantula that was quite tame and gentle. She took flies from his fingers like a dear thing."

Sarah Grand's Wit.

Mme. Sarah Grand's lectures in England during the past winter have been attended with singular success. Clever, accomplished and charming, she talks brilliantly and lectures with easy grace and finish. People who have rushed to hear her in the hope that her lectures would savor of the problems in "The Heavenly Twins" and "Babs the Impossible," and who expected to be mildly shocked, have been disappointed. But they have been agreeably surprised in other ways by her sense of humor, which is the salt of her speaking as well as her writing. Recently she sent a London audience into screams of laughter when she responded to the cry from Australia—"Send us 2,000 wives." "In behalf of 2,000 English benefactors, I reply, 'Take ours! Take ours!'"

Pale Rose Cloaks.

As pale blue cloth cloaks were immensely smart last summer at the French watering places, so this year will be those in pale rose color. Sometimes the material is flannel, sometimes cloth, sometimes taffeta, always it has a certain air of being tailored that is a bit of a pretense considering the color, and, in some cases, the ma-

great natural shrewdness. He got possession of a number of Manitoba land grants in some way or other and evolved an elaborate scheme for running a railroad out into that wilderness, dividing the land off into farms and city lots and selling it. He interested some of the richest men in his plan, talked them into putting up the money for the road and it was built. The lots were sold right off all right and the road was a success. Later on Hill got control of it, having started with nothing but some plans on paper. That was his beginning and he has been going ahead ever since. He is a wonderful money-maker.

The Compass Plant.

The compass plant is one of the most interesting growths on the great prairies of North America, and many fine specimens may be seen in botanical gardens. It is from three to six

feet high, bears a pretty yellow flower and lives through a number of years. The name is derived from the fact that the edges of its radical leaves always point north and south, and the faces are therefore turned east and west.

Hunters, travelers and horsemen on the trackless prairies depend in great part upon this plant to get their bearings. Even on dark nights it serves as a guide. If the lost traveler can feel the edges of the leaves, he can at once locate the points of the compass. Longfellow in his beautiful poem of Evangeline refers to this plant when heroine over the western prairies in search of her exiled Acadian lover. Scientists ascribe the action of the leaves of the plant in always pointing north and south as due to the effect of light.

Wellington's Appetite Easily Satisfied.

The Duke of Wellington's personal tastes and habits, like those of most great men, were very simple. He cared not for show or pomp of any kind. In his diet he was very abstemious, even to the injury, it appears, of his health. He, of course, kept a first rate French cook for his guests. The cook, it is said, one day suddenly resigned. The duke in astonishment asked the reason.

"Was his salary insufficient?"

"No, my salary is very handsome. But I am not appreciated. I cook your dinner myself, a dinner fit for a king. You say nothing, I go out and leave the under-cook to cook your dinner. He gives you a dinner fit for a pig. You say nothing. I am not appreciated. I must go."

Passing of the Big Ranch.

Charles S. Goodnight, a pioneer ranchman in the Texas Panhandle a generation ago, says that this generation has seen the passing of the 1,000,000 acre ranch, and that immense tracts in one body have seen their day in Texas. Mr. Goodnight says that ten men with 10,000 acres each can operate more successfully than one man on 1,000,000 acres.

Good Reasoning.

"Don't you kinder hanker after respectability now an' den?" asked Plodding Pete.

"Oh, I dunno," answered Meandering Mike. "Sometimes I t'ink dat respectability ain' much more dan permission to work hard for what us people gits for nothin'."

terial. One of the prettiest models to come out as yet is in pale rose flannel, three-quarters length, laid from the shoulders in tiny tucks that are stitched almost to the hem. The cloak fastens with an ecru guipure scarf about the throat, knotting on one side, and then hanging in two long, broad ends to the hem of the cloak, confined at several points by straps of flannel, buttoned across with handsome gold buttons. The sleeve is wide and loose and hangs only a little below the elbow in order to show a full undersleeve of lace like the scarf. The garment is unlined.

Mission Chain Across Africa.

Rev. George Grenfell has been commissioned by Robert Arl'Nagton, a wealthy man of Leeds, England, to establish a chain of Christian missions across Africa. Mr. Grenfell has long been the friend and confidant of Leopold, king of the Belgians, by whom he was created a commander of the Royal Order of the Lion. He was selected by the king of the Belgians to act as a special commissioner for the delimitation of the Congo frontier, and traveled 1,000 miles on oxback during his journeyings, which occupied two years, and compelled him to occupy the same tent and dangerous surroundings for the whole of that time.

On Different Ground.

The term "help," meaning household or outside assistants engaged for short periods, occurs in the Massachusetts records of 1645, where help and servants are treated as separate, the latter being inferior. A "servant" in those days was not sui juris; "help" stood on different ground, and the distinction is still felt, however faintly. "Help" meant a free person, "servant" did not.

MARGARET FULLER.

A BRILLIANT CAREER WHICH
CLOSED TRAGICALLY.

A Woman Marvelously Gifted, Especially in Languages, Whose Memory It Is Now Proposed to Honor by the Erection of a Monument.

The proposition to erect a monument to the memory of Sarah Margaret Fuller Ossoli, better known as plain Margaret Fuller, directs attention to one of the brightest geniuses among American women. It is suggested that the memorial be placed on the shore of Fire Island, near the spot where the gifted woman went down to a watery grave more than a half century ago. Her career, which ended so tragically, was one of brilliant literary achievements and romantic incidents.

A Prodigy.

Margaret Fuller was the daughter of Timothy Fuller, a congressman and distinguished lawyer of Chilmark, Mass., and her early education was supervised by him. Naturally bright, the father exceeded the limit of her endurance in forcing her to study throughout the day and recite at night. As a mere child she read Horace, Ovid and other Latin writers in the original. At 15 she was in the habit of rising at 5 o'clock of a summer morning, walking an hour, practicing on the piano an hour, reading Sismond's European literature in French one hour and Brown's Philosophy one hour and a half. Then she would read Greek for a while. In the afternoon she spent two hours reading Italian. A year later she was studying Mme. de Staël, Epictetus, Milton, Racine and Castilian ballads with great delight. At 17 she was engrossed in Berni, Pulci, Politian and other old Italian poets. She was also deep in Greek and planning a course in Locke's philosophy. At 20 she gave her undivided attention to the German language and literature, in which she had already made considerable prog-



MARGARET FULLER.

ress. It is recorded that she learned enough of a language to read it intelligently in six weeks' study.

Teaching and Writing.

During these years at home Miss Fuller engaged in the housework, and at 20 took charge of the education of the younger children of the family. Three years later she became an instructor in Mr. Alcott's famous school, and when it was abandoned she went to Providence to teach. On returning to Boston she divided her time between study and teaching private scholars. She was qualified to teach Latin, Greek, German, French, Italian, Spanish and the higher English branches. It was during this period that Miss Fuller made many warm friends and won fame as a brilliant conversationalist. For five or six years she conducted a school of conversation for girls and women, discussing many subjects. She also became known as a graceful and entertaining letter writer.

She translated a number of works from foreign languages and wrote considerable original matter for the literary journals of the time. Her Autobiographical Romance appeared in 1840, her Summer on the Lakes in 1843, her Woman in the Nineteenth Century in 1844 and her Papers in Literature and Art in 1846. Much other literary material was found among her papers, and her journal was a voluminous affair. She gave up her school of conversation to accept a position on the New York Tribune, in which she gave special attention to moral and social reforms, winning the favor of Horace Greeley and building up a strong following.

A Romantic Marriage.

Miss Fuller was able in 1847 to put a long-cherished project into effect by making a trip to Europe, during which she wrote letters for the Tribune. This led her to Rome on the eve of the uprising. While in London Miss Fuller had met and learned to admire Mazzini, who was at the front of the movement for the independence of Italy, and she took an earnest interest in the political situation in Rome. One day while out on a trip of observation she strayed from a party of friends, and a young Italian gallantly offered to escort her home. He proved to be Giovanni Angelo, Marquis Ossoli, a member of a distinguished family. The marquis had joined the party of independence, although his family adhered to the cause of the Pope, who had two of its younger members in his service as chamberlains. Angelo's family disapproved him when he announced himself for Mazzini. The chance acquaintance with Miss Fuller was continued, and the young nobleman soon proposed marriage, but was refused. Miss Fuller, however, admired him for the noble stand he had made, and in time learned to love him. This was followed by a wedding in December, 1847, but as the bride was a Protestant the marriage was kept secret for a time

in order not to aggravate the tension in the husband's family.

Mrs. Ossoli devoted herself to the cause of freedom, encouraged the followers of Mazzini, became an enthusiastic nurse in the hospitals and endeared herself to all who were for independence. During the height of the siege by the French she joined her husband in the most exposed position on the works of defense, expecting both would be killed in the bombardment. When the French entered the city the Ossolis withdrew to Florence, and in 1850 they sailed for the United States. Their ship foundered off Long Island within a few rods of shore, and most of those on board were lost. The life and fate of the gifted woman have ever since had a peculiarly strong interest for Americans.

THE FLYING MACHINE.

Its Limitations and Also Its Possibilities.

We can already calculate approximately the proportions, the strength and weight, the supporting efficiency, the speed, and the power required for a projected flying machine, so as to judge of the practicability of a design. Indeed, the mathematics of the subject have been so far evolved that engineering computations may eventually displace vague speculation in the domain of aerial navigation.

But after the problem has been worked out to a mechanical success, the commercial uses of aerial apparatus will be small. The limitations of the balloon have already been mentioned; such craft will be slow, frail, and very costly. We are now sufficiently advanced in the design of flying machines to perceive some of their limitations. They will be comparatively small and cranky, require much power, carry little extra weight and depend for their effective speed on each journey, whether they go against the wind or with it, so that they cannot compete with existing modes of transportation in cheapness or in carrying capacity. It is true that high speeds may be attained, and this may serve in war, in exploration, perhaps in mail transportation, and in sport; but the loads will be very small, and the expenses will be great.

But flying machines will develop new uses of their own; and as mankind has always been benefited by the introduction of new and faster modes of transportation, we may hope that successful aerial navigation will spread civilization, knit the nations closer together, make all regions accessible, and perhaps so equalize the hazards of war as to abolish it altogether, thus bringing about the predicted era of universal peace and good will.

A LEGEND OF THE ORIENT.

In Which Is Described the Discovery of Coffee.

The discovery of coffee is thus told in a legend of the Orient: Toward the middle of the 15th century a poor Arab was traveling in Abyssinia, and finding himself weak and weary from fatigue he stopped near a grove. Then, being in want of fuel to cook his rice, he cut down a tree, which happened to be full of dead berries. His meal being cooked and eaten, the traveler discovered that the half-burned berries were very fragrant. Collecting a number of these and crushing them with a stone, he found that their aroma had increased to a great extent. While wondering at this he accidentally let fall the substance into a can which contained his scant supply of water. Lo, what a miracle! The almost putrid liquid was instantly purified. He brought it to his lips; it was fresh, agreeable and in a moment after the traveler has so far recovered his strength and energy as to be able to resume his journey.

The lucky Arab gathered as many berries as he could, and, having arrived at Arden, in Arabia, he informed the mufti of his discovery. This worthy divine was an inveterate opium smoker, who had been suffering for years from the effects of that poisonous drug. He tried an infusion of the roasted berries and was so delighted at the recovery of his own vigor that, in gratitude to the tree, he called it cabuah, which in Arabic signifies force.

Queen Never Discarded Old Clothes.

The sorting and arranging of the personal effects of the late Queen Victoria was a tremendous task, says a London correspondent. One peculiarity of her majesty was never to discard any dress, mantle, hat or bonnet which she had ever worn, and her wardrobe might well have been considered the most complete record of the fashion of the last 60 years in existence. Another fancy of Queen Victoria was to have everything in duplicate; two hats, two cloaks, etc., were always ordered. Her majesty had a wonderful collection of lace, but this is not to be compared with the collection of the Queen Dowager of Italy, said to be the best in the world.

Coal Found Where Needed.

A Copenhagen correspondent states that a firm in that city has exhibited the first samples of coal from the large Icelandic coal bed recently discovered at Nordfjord. The coal is considered equal in quality to Northumbrian. Samples are being sent to the Danish Royal Agricultural Society to be examined, also to Stockholm and Christiania. It is expected that the new coal bed will be valuable, at any rate, for local purposes.

Japanese Students Short-sighted.

Short-sightedness among Japanese students is alarmingly on the increase. The latest investigations show that out of 1,786 Japanese students in Tokio more than half are myopic.

SPRINKLING WAGONS.

An Improvement on the Old Style—Now Exported.

The modern sprinkling wagon is very different from the old-timer. The chief improvement is in the spray head, which enables the driver to control the flow of water much better than the old style. Thus, whether it is a dirt or a macadam road, or a stone paved or asphalt street, there can be supplied from the modern street sprinkler just the amount of water required to lay the dust in it, without waste. The spray head on each side has its own valve rod running to the driver's seat, with a step there for the foot. The driver can operate both heads at once, or he can run only one head; he can shut off or open either at pleasure. With this sort of wagon the expert driver leaves behind him dry crosswalks with perfectly defined limits; and when he comes to a carriage or a street car, upon which he doesn't want to throw water, he shuts off the flow on that side and keeps the other going. Sprinkling wagons are made in various sizes, ranging from 150 gallons to 1,000 gallons capacity. There are twenty sprinkling wagons sold in this country nowadays where there was one sold only a few years ago. This great increase in their use is due in large measure to sanitary reasons, to the great extension of good roads, and to the common desire for comfort. Sprinkling wagons are used nowadays commonly in many smaller towns and villages, where they were never thought of some years ago. And American sprinkling wagons are now found all over the world wherever sprinkling wagons are used. They are exported to Australia, Cuba, Porto Rico, South America, South Africa and Europe. The modern sprinkling wagon that the traveler chances to see in Paris, or Berlin, or Hamburg, came very likely from the same factory as the one he saw here before he left home, going through his own home street.

HE CAME TO BE HANGED.

Boer Gave Lord Wolseley a Chance to Carry Out His Threat.

Abel Erasmus, the Boer leader who recently surrendered to the British in South Africa, is a man of great distinction among his countrymen. A good story is told of the old Boer and Lord Wolseley, then Sir Garnet Wolseley, in connection with the part Erasmus took in Wolseley's campaign in 1879 against Sekukuni, the chief of the Bapedis on the borders of Swaziland. After the capture of Sekukuni he was immediately brought before Sir Garnet Wolseley, who asked him how he, a miserable kaffir living in a cave, dared to defy the great queen of England. The chief replied that he had been instigated to do so by Abel Erasmus. Sir Garnet, in describing the scene at a public dinner given to him at Pretoria on his return from the campaign, said that he wished there and then to let Abel Erasmus know that if ever he found that Erasmus had been inciting any chief to levy war against England, and he was able to lay hands on him, Abel Erasmus would hang as high as Haman. A few days after the dinner Sir Henry Brackenbury, Sir Garnet's military secretary, was sitting in his office when a tall, bearded Boer entered and asked permission to speak with him. "I am Abel Erasmus," he said, "and I have very important business to do here." He explained that he had come to see Sir Garnet Wolseley, for he had heard that Sir Garnet had said that if he could lay hold of him he would hang him, and so he had come to be hanged. Sir Garnet was in the next room and Sir Henry Brackenbury thought that it would be advisable to consult him on the subject. Sir Garnet, however, happened to be too busy at the moment to see anybody, and Sir Henry after reflection persuaded his angry visitor to take his leave and allow the hangul to stand over for the time.

King Edward's Double.

An amusing incident occurred during the Easter holidays at Boulogne. The editor of a London weekly—a gentleman who bears a striking resemblance to King Edward—was enjoying his cigar in one of the principal cafes in the town, when he suddenly became aware that his presence was causing unwonted interest and no little commotion. Presently an old gentleman rose up and shouted: "Vive le Roi de l'Angleterre!" a sentiment which was heartily joined in by most of the people in the cafe. The conductor of the orchestra, not to be behind hand, immediately struck up, "God Save the King," but this was too much for the journalist, who made a bolt for the door, and made good his escape.

Society's New Game—Siberian Whist.

The London Express says that Siberian whist seems to be causing a certain amount of interest among the votaries of bridge, but up to now is not much understood in England, although it is very much in vogue at Constantinople and in Russia. It can be made a much more gambling game than bridge, as, although there is no doubling, as in the former, the players can outbid each other in the making of trumps, and the consequent penalties on the losing of tricks may amount to as much as 5,000 points. Indeed, it is possible to lose as much with penny points at Siberian whist as at bridge with points at a shilling.

The World's Tin Producers.

Up to about 49 years ago Cornwall, Eng., supplied nearly all the tin used in the world, but now only about 7 per cent of the supply comes from there. The Malay peninsula has taken Cornwall's place, furnishing about 60 per cent of the world's production, and the Dutch East Indies comes next with 19 per cent.