

**CAPTAIN BIGELOW'S COURT-MARTIAL.**

**SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT BY AN ARMY EXPERT.**

Captain John Bigelow, Jr., whose book has aroused such a stir in military circles and may be the cause of his own court martial, is the son of John Bigelow, at one time United States Minister to France. Captain Bigelow graduated from West Point in 1877, and has been with the Tenth Cavalry ever since. In the army he is considered an authority on military subjects and his books on tactics have attracted the very favorable attention of European soldiers. His best known work before the Reminiscences of the Santiago Campaign was called The Principles of Strategy.

Reminiscences of the Santiago Campaign presents some most interesting suggestions as to the complete reorganization of the War Department, of which the following are perhaps the more important:

"The organization of the army," says Captain Bigelow, "should enjoy the two ideas of supremacy for the civil power and unity of command and responsibility for the military power. I am impressed with the conviction that the War Department should be reorganized so as to consist of a Secretary of War, a number of assistant secretaries, and a force of civilian inspectors and clerks. The secretary and assistant secretaries should attend to the fiscal affairs of the army, the preparation of such orders as the President or Secretary of War might see fit to issue, and the commissioning of officers.

"The President should be governed in military appointments by the recommendations of the commanding general." Then, what is the most important suggestion Captain Bigelow makes, there should be a great general staff and a general staff, the great general staff to be subordinate to the lieutenant-general commanding the army. The duties of the great general staff would be substantially those of similar organizations in Europe—to gather and arrange for use all kinds of military information about our own country and foreign countries, to draw up plans of mobilization and operation, to search the records of past wars for valuable data and useful lessons, to direct the military education of men and officers, uniting the military academy; the post lyceums, and service schools into one system, and establishing a school for non-commissioned officers. The general staff should perform the military duties now performed by the adjutant-general's department, quartermaster's department, and commissary department.

Captain Bigelow states that these measures would be practical only in combination, and in conclusion makes the pertinent remark: "Our people are so much pleased with the result of our late war to be disposed to criticize the methods by which it was attained, and generally too ill informed upon military matters to be able to appreciate the weakness of our military system. The great military reorganizations of this century, those of Prussia and France, were the consequences of crushing defeat and national humiliation. How is ours to come about?"

Punmaker—My wife is a woman of invention.

Girdlestone—What has she been doing now?

Punmaker—At dinner, last night, when she wished to call the waitress, she found the electric bell was out of order.

Girdlestone—Did she repair it?

Punmaker—No; she made a napkin bag.

**LITERARY NOTE FROM THE CENTURY CO.**

The most striking feature of The Century for September, which will be a Salt-Water Number, is the first installment of Captain Joshua Slocum's "Sailing Alone Around the World." This is the narrative of a daring voyage of circumnavigation, undertaken by the author in 1895, in a forty-foot sloop built by himself in Buzzard's Bay, and taken back and forth across the Atlantic and thence around Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, without assistance or companionship. The distance traversed was 46,000 miles, and the accuracy of the navigator's landfalls throughout was a thing to marvel at, his chronometer for most of the time being a little tin clock of the cheapest kind. Captain Slocum was a thoroughly seasoned sailor when he started on his adventurous single-handed cruise, but his unique achievement was not without difficulties and perils that taxed to the utmost his strength, endurance and ingenuity. Other contents of this number of The Century are "The Way of a Ship," by Frank T. Bullen, author of "The Cruise of the Cachalot"; "The Atlantic Speedway," by H. Phelps Whitmarsh, author of "The World's Rough Hand"; and "Salvage," by Morgan Robertson, author of the forthcoming volume of sea tales "Where Angels Fear to Tread."

**THE AMERICAN GIRL.**

In his review of Mr. Charles Dudley Warner's novel "That Fortune," in the current number of Literature, Mr. W. D. Howells discusses at some length the bibliography of American girlhood. Certainly there has been no greater change in any stock character in fiction during the past forty years than in that of the American girl. Beginning with Quesech and The Wide, Wide World, Mr. Howells goes through the list, past Mrs. Whitney's heroines and those of Miss Louisa Alcott, pausing for a bit to comment on the wave of Daisy Millerism started by Henry James. Mr. Warner's heroine is like none of these, and Mr. Howells is glad accordingly. "I rejoice in her with a heart still young for heroines," he says, "and if I did not envy him for it so much, I congratulate Mr. Warner on having discovered in her a sort of American girl which it was high time somebody should naturalize in our fiction."

The "Rock Island" Route has cheap rates, literal stop over privileges, through cars, etc. to the G. A. R., Philadelphia. Ask or write "Rock Island" agent for information and one of the Souvenirs, or address

E. W. THOMPSON,  
A. G. P. & T. A., Topeka.  
32-2 t

Miss S.—How naturally you took your part in the amateur theatricals.

Miss P.—Do you think so?

Miss S.—Indeed I do. I would not have known there was a prompter within a mile.

Brigge—I'll bet Miss Spindle helped you out when you tried to kiss her.

Grigge—No, but her father did.

Mae—That fellow you were with last night is a very modest young man, isn't he?

Madge—Yes; he only took five kisses.

"Come, my dear," said the Thespian coaxingly, to his saggy wife, as they entered their dressing-room, "let us kiss and make up."

Instead of constantly swearing off vices a man should occasionally swear on a few virtues.



**HARPER'S PERIODICALS**

MAGAZINE,	-	\$4.00,	with COURIER,	-	\$4.00
WEEKLY,	-	4 00,	with COURIER,	-	4.00
BAZAR,	-	4.00,	with COURIER,	-	4.00
LITERATURE,	-	4.00,	with COURIER,	-	4.00
ROUND TABLE,	-	1.00,	with COURIER,	-	1.00

OTHER PERIODICALS SAME CLUBBING RATE

**THE**

**Western Club Woman**

A magazine devoted to interests of clubs and

**The Courier**

For ONE DOLLAR and SEVENTY-FIVE cents a year.

"So your brother is married. I always supposed he was too bashful to propose to a woman."

"Oh, he married a widow."

"I tell you after living in Chicago six months, you don't want to live anywhere else."

"Does it have such an effect upon your mind as that?"

Catterson—Can you and your wife take dinner with us soon?

Hatterson—Why yes; thank you.

Catterson—Good! We want to get even with you for the dinner you gave us.

"Henly doesn't believe there'll ever be universal peace."

"When did he get married?"