

## GOOD Short Stories

An English lawyer, who had been cross-examining a witness for some time and who had sorely taxed the patience of the judge, jury, and every one in the court, was finally asked by the court to conclude his cross-examination. Before telling the witness to stand down, he accosted him with this parting sarcasm: "Ah, you're a clever fellow—a very clever fellow—we can all see that." The witness leaned over from the box, and quietly retorted: "I would return the compliment if I were not on oath."

Browning had a maid in his service who had a gift for saying quaint things. When the poet was going to lay the last mark of respect to George Henry Lewes, she said she "didn't see the good of catching cold at other people's funerals." And once, when he was away on a holiday and a journalist came to the door to inquire if it was true that the poet was dead, she indignantly answered: "I have not heard so, and I am sure my master's not the kind of a man to do such a thing without letting us know."

Whistler's amusing personal conceit has charmingly displayed on one occasion when A. G. Plowden, a London police magistrate, attended a private view at the Grosvenor Gallery. "Ah, that's the first friend I met," he says, "was Whistler, and he very good-naturedly took me up to a full-length portrait which he was exhibiting of Lady Archibald Campbell. After I had done my best to express my humble appreciation of a beautiful picture, I asked him if there were any other pictures which he would advise me to look at. 'Other pictures,' said Whistler, 'is a tone of horror; other pictures! There are no other pictures! You are through!'"

The list of silent great men is a long one. Especially is this true of noted warriors. Wallenstein, Wellington, Von Moltke, Grant, Marlborough, Charlemagne, Hannibal, Caesar, all gave their orders in as few words as possible, and demanded brief replies from their subordinates. It is said that Marlborough never allowed more than a minute for a verbal report, and it is told of Von Moltke that when an aide-de-camp brought a written message that France had declared war, the great general sharply ordered it filed in the "second pigeon-hole on the right, first tier." In that pigeon-hole were complete plans for the successful campaign that followed.

Here is an anecdote which William Dean Howells tells of his first personal recognition as a writer: "Years ago, one evening after a day of lonely sight-seeing in Montreal, I returned to the hotel where I was stopping, and consulted the register in the hope of finding the name of some acquaintance. I was disappointed, and turning away, I met two well-dressed young men, who embraced the register eagerly, and, presently, one of them said, to my great surprise and joy: 'Hello, Tom! Here's Howells.' 'Oh!' I exclaimed, turning toward them, 'I was just looking for some one I knew. I'm glad to see you. I hope you're some fellows who know me?' 'Only through your contributions to the Saturday Press,' they replied. It was the first personal recognition of my work as an author that I had ever received from a stranger, and the words were golden."

### THEATERS OF OLD COUNTRY.

#### In Many Cities They Are Controlled by the Government.

The recent theater horror in Chicago has turned the attention of the country toward theaters in general and numerous cities are hurrying to "get their houses in order" that such a catastrophe may not occur to them, says the Municipal Journal and Engineer. It would speak better for these cities if they did not need such prompting. In many cities on the continent the operation of theaters is not left to private concerns, but the municipalities have erected the playhouses or subsidized them, and this idea is gradually spreading.

In Vienna the court theaters were erected by the state on state lands and consist of two buildings for different phases of the drama. The opera house for operas, ballets and concerts, cost in the neighborhood of \$2,548,975, while the Burg Theater, for the drama itself, cost \$68,530. These theaters are the property of the Emperor's treasury and are maintained by the lord chamberlain's department, and whenever the revenue does not cover the expenses the Emperor's civil list makes up the difference. The chamberlain's department assumes no responsibility in extending the grant, which is looked after by the Hungarian government. Besides the state grants, the Royal Opera House and other theaters in Budapest receive different grants from the state and other smaller grants from the city. The provincial towns of Hungary assist theater managers by allowing free use of buildings and helping to defray cost of heating and lighting.

Belgium grants subsidies to composers, whose works are produced in a Belgium theater, and, in addition, subsidies are given to composers producing their works in French, Flemish or Wallon. Most of the cities subsidize or own several theaters, some are given rent free, and in most of them the scenery and furniture belong to the town.

At Sophia, Bulgaria, the city is to erect a theater as soon as enough mon-

ey is accumulated from the state lottery.

In France, the four national theaters occupy the buildings rent free, but they must pay the taxes, provide for maintenance and allow larger repairs to be made by the state without claim for damages through interruption. An annual subsidy is granted to each theater by the national parliament, warehouses are provided for storing scenery. The three largest theaters must submit to regulation of the choice of pieces produced, prices of seats, number of performances, as well as the number of new pieces per year, the minimum number of artists of each class in the company, the auditing of accounts by the Minister of Finance. In the case of the company called the Comedie Francaise, it manages its interests under state supervision, but some great work must be put on every month, or two smaller works newly written or revised, including some pieces by living authors. All the other theaters are free from state control, although other towns grant subsidies. A large number of musical societies receive encouragement from the cities by grants and medals for good work.

In Berlin the royal Prussian opera house and playhouse receive together the sum of \$270,000 and the land on which they stand belongs to the state.

Only one theater in Rome, Italy, belongs to the city, but in Florence, the municipal band receives \$300 a year and further small sums for the music stand and maintenance. Milan owns part of one of her theaters and subsidies are given others. Lisbon has two theaters owned by the state, one having been erected in 1793 by private subscriptions.

There are three state theaters at St. Petersburg and three at Moscow maintained at the expense of the Emperor. In the principal towns are theaters established by the state and in which are produced dramas for the education of the people. The prices are very low. At St. Petersburg, Warsaw and Kiev the temperance societies maintain these popular theaters, but are granted subsidies, the amounts in the first-named city totaling over \$1,500,000 during the last five years.

### Fair Play.

During the reform riots in Hyde Park, London, in 1895, the mob, on a well-remembered night, began tearing down the fences of Hyde Park for food and barricades. Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson tells in the Atlantic Monthly of an English officer who was dining with a friend, all unconscious of the impending danger. Presently he received a summons from the War Department, telling him that his regiment was ordered out to deal with the mob.

He hastened back to his own house, but when he called for his horse he found that his servant had received permission to go out for the evening, and had the key of the stable in his pocket. The officer hastily donned his uniform, and then had to proceed on foot to the Guards' Armory, which lay on the other side of Hyde Park. Walking hastily in that direction, he came out unexpectedly at the very headquarters of the mob, where they were already piling up the fences.

His uniform was recognized, and angry shouts arose. It must have seemed for the moment to the mob that the Lord had delivered their worst enemy into their hands.

There was but one thing to be done. He made his way straight toward the center of action, and called to a man who was mounted on the pile, and was evidently the leader of the tumult: "I say, my good man, my regiment has been called out by her Majesty's orders. Will you give me a hand over this pile?"

The man hesitated a minute, and then said with decision: "Boys, the gentleman is right. He is doing his duty, and we have no quarrel with him. Lend a hand and help him over."

This was promptly done with entire respect, and the officer in his brilliant uniform went hastily on his way amid three cheers from the mob. Then the mob returned to its work, to complete it if possible before he whom they had aided should come back at the head of his regiment, and perhaps order them to be shot down.

### When Mandy Starts to Wash.

When Mandy sets the boiler on, An' bustles up th' fire, An' starts a-stirrin' up of starch An' hists'er sleeves up higher, W's, then you know th' war is on, It ain't no time to josh, Th' on'y thing to do is—git, When Mandy starts to wash.

Cold beans an' bread an' coffee's all I'll git to eat that day, An' I ain't no use to stay around An' git in Mandy's way, Fer then she'll set me hard at work A-rinsh' out—kersplish! Ye can't stay round th' house an' shirk When Mandy starts to wash.

An' so I kinder hem around 'At my terbaccer's out, Fer down at Job's (th' corner store) Th' boys all set about A-lookin' jest as sheepish-like An' chawin' crackers—Gosh! I ain't no shiftless one, When Mandy starts to wash.

'Nen I go smilin' down th' road, A-feelin' sneaky-like, To jine in with th' other boys 'AC's sorter out on strike! A feller can't help feelin' mean 'S long 's he can't josh, Th' on'y thing to do is—git, When Mandy starts to wash. —Lippincott's Magazine.

### Land for Opium.

The Indian government now has about 600,000 acres of land devoted to opium raising. Most of the product is shipped to China.

## IN DIRE STRAITS

CONDITIONS AT PORT ARTHUR DE-CLARED DESPERATE

### FOOD SUPPLY RUNS LOW

FAMINE PRICES EXIST AND CONSTANTLY DEPRECIATING

Daily Horribly Deserted by Russians, Leaving Much for Japanese Who Enter—Fighting on Peninsula.

LONDON.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at New Chwang says: "Some Chinese fugitives from Port Arthur arrived here, describes the situation of the inhabitants there as desperate. Famine prices exist. The cost of provisions increase weekly. Many persons are reduced to eating Chinese food, and even that is dear. Millet flour costs \$6 a bag. Whole streets and several public buildings have been wrecked by Japanese shell fire. The hospitals are packed with sick and wounded."

The Tokio correspondent of the Chronicle telegraphs: "Russian strategy has undergone another change. Ying Kow is to be again fortified. Four guns have been brought from New Chwang the garrison increased, and the harbor mined."

NEW CHWANG.—Refugees who continue to arrive from the southern part of the Liao Tung peninsula report daily fighting there and severe losses for both armies, but the reports are not confirmable officially. The Russians here are depending on the press bulletins for news from that vicinity. The very highest Russian authority here while not believing that Port Arthur will fall admits that its loss would be a terrible blow to the Russians arms. The same authority says Russia may send a large army to the south of New Chwang in the event of General Stoets being able to hold his own at Port Arthur. This, however, is not possible at present, owing to the positions occupied by the Japanese armies operating from the Yalu river and Taku Shan. The Russians are not sanguine as to the outlook for Port Arthur. More contraband of war is arriving here. Two cargoes of four tinned meats and some specie were rushed to Mukden as soon as they were unloaded.

Heavy rains are daily making the roads almost impassable. The Chinese bands are becoming active.

### Worst of Flood is Over

TOPEKA, Kas.—The high water in the Kansas river is receding slowly tonight and all danger is past. Two had washouts on the Santa Fe between Topeka and Emporia have not yet been repaired, but trains will be running tomorrow. The heaviest rains of yesterday fell in parts of Kansas other than the Kaw valley, or there would have been much higher water here. Much damage has been done to crops.

The Kaw river was eighteen feet above low water mark at this point at 8 o'clock and apparently at a standstill. The run of driftwood has been heavy, and the Rock Island railroad people were busy the greater portion of the night dislodging the accumulation at their bridge with dynamite. Notwithstanding these efforts the greater portion of the false work of this bridge, which is being reconstructed, went out, making the bridge unsafe for traffic. The street railway bridge also was knocked out of alignment, making the passage of cars impossible. The waters extend far up in the city park and out on the north side to some of the dwellings, but the washing away of chicken coops and sidewalks is reported.

In "Little Russia" a number of families are moving out, as the waters are backing up to their door yards. Many North Topeka citizens came across the bridge to Topeka proper. West of here, at Abilene and Manhattan, the Smoky and Kaw rivers are falling.

At Vassar the flood is the most serious since 1844. The river reaches from bluff to bluff, crops are practically ruined in the bottoms and nearly all the bridges on the Dragon and "101" creek have been washed out. Several farms are from two to three feet under water, and much live stock has been drowned.

### Thrown Into Arkansas River

SALIDA, Col.—Twelve persons were plunged into the Arkansas river here today by the breaking of a foot bridge on which a crowd had gathered to witness the ceremony of casting flowers upon the waters in memory of the country's naval heroes, and the wife of Rev. Warren Thompson was drowned. Some of the others were unconscious when rescued and were revived with difficulty.

### Big Flood in Kansas

TOPEKA, Kas.—Heavy rains throughout the Kansas river valley has caused higher water than at any time since the flood of a year ago. It is expected that the Kansas river will be very high by tomorrow, though no dangerous rise is looked for. The rail has been general over the state for thirty-six hours, and has extended to the Colorado line. All railroads are having trouble.

## RUSSIAN FIRE NOT HEEDED

HEROIC TENACITY OF ASSAILANTS GAINED VICTORY

Hardest Fought Battle of War Opened Gateway to Port Arthur—China Asked to Govern.

TOKIO.—The details of the fighting at Kin Chou emphasize the heroic tenacity of the Japanese in their conducts at Nan Shan hill.

Nine successive times the Japanese charged the fortified heights in the face of a storm of death dealing missiles and in their last effort they carried the forts and trenches only after a bayonet conflict with the Russians, who made a desperate despairing struggle to beat back the incoming hordes.

The final assault of the Japanese in which they at last succeeded in taking possession, was marked by the most desperate hand to hand encounter that has thus far characterized the war.

The Japanese left, throughout the entire action until night, was exposed to an enfilading fire from the Russian infantry, a gunboat on the Takuwan bay and four nine centimeter guns posted at Tafengchen.

At a critical moment, the ammunition of the artillery ran low, and it was decided to cast the remaining ammunition into one final desperate assault.

Fortunately however, at the moment this decision was reached the Japanese squadron in Kin Chou bay which had ceased bombarding when the infantry had first moved forward suddenly resumed the shelling of Nan Shan hill.

The Japanese paid for their victory in 3,500 killed and wounded. To the Russians, the humiliation of defeat was intensified by the loss of sixty-eight cannon and ten machine guns, while lying dead in the forts and trenches were 500 men, the victims of the accuracy of Japanese long distance marksmanship and of close range fighting.

### Close of the Conference

LOS ANGELES, Cal.—It was after midnight when the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church finished the final roll call last night which brought to a close the most memorable gathering in the story of the church. Today, memorial services were held during the afternoon and in the evening a jubilee service at the pavilion closed the series of meetings.

The conference just closed has accomplished much for the interest of the Methodist church and will go down in church history as one of the most important in the point of legislative action.

The action of the general conference in retiring five bishops and electing eleven other properly attracted the widest attention of any other single happening but there were many other subjects that affected the great membership of the Methodist church and which were watched with deep interest.

Among these were the decision to stand by the present attitude of the church on the subject of prohibited amusements; the refusal to return to the time limit of pastoral services; the exonerating of certain theological schools of the charge of heretical teachings; the unification of the Methodist publishing houses; the consolidation of the boards of church benevolence; providing means to support for superannuated ministers; fixing the status of superannuated bishops; creating a commission to revise the ritual of the church continuing the commission appointed four years ago to bring the various branches of Methodism closer together in the use of common prayer book, hymnal and catechism; referendum of the much discussed question of a colored bishop and many other matters of smaller importance.

### Collapse of Old Building

WASHINGTON.—Mr. Gummere, the United States consul at Tangier, in a cablegram received at the state department over night, says that greets against the lives of Raisul's, captives, Perdicaris and Varley, have been made unless the bandit's demand are granted. A dispatch from admiral Jewel, commanding the European squadron, announces the departure for Tangier of the cruisers Olympia, Baltimore and Cleveland.

### Wreck on Great Northern.

EVERETT, Wash.—The west-bound overland train on the Great Northern ran into two freight trains. The Shingle Mill siding at Monroe, fifteen miles east of Everett, tonight. The engine and baggage car were wrecked and brakeman Tom Downing was killed. The express messenger on the passenger and a mill hand who was on the passenger are missing. The engineer of the passenger train was probably fatally injured.

## KIN CHOU IS TAKEN

JAPANESE CAPTURE THE CITY, BUT AT HEAVY COST

### LOSS TWELVE THOUSAND

FORCED TO FALL BACK AFTER STRONG RESISTANCE.

Practically an Artillery Duel Beginning Thursday and Continuing for Hours—Warships Aid Japanese.

LONDON.—A dispatch to the Central News from Harbin says the Japanese losses during the fighting at Kin-Chou are said to be twelve thousand men killed. It is said these figures have confirmed by an official dispatch. Fighting, it is added, is still going on in the vicinity of Kin Chou.

The Japanese legation have received the following official dispatch from Tokio:

"Kin-Chou and all the heights in its vicinity have been taken and our troops are pushing the Russians towards Port Arthur."

A dispatch from Tokio to the Central News, dated today, says: "The fighting which culminated in the Japanese occupation of Kin Chou was practically confined to an artillery duel, which, beginning at dawn of May 26, continued without intermission for five hours."

"Three Japanese warships in Kin Chou bay co-operated, firing with heavy guns on the Russian positions. A Russian gunboat in Takuwan bay also joined in the fight, bombarding to left flank of the Japanese army."

"Kin Chou castle was occupied by Japanese twenty minutes past four o'clock this morning. Later the Russians were driven from their positions on the southern height. The Japanese are now in pursuit of the retreating Russians."

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, discussing the recent fighting north of Port Arthur, said today: "Kin Chou will be occupied as a first base. The neighboring hills will be strongly fortified in order that they can be held indefinitely. For food supplies and ammunition Port Dalny will be second base."

"The possessions of Kin Chou will be invaluable aid in the campaign against Port Arthur. The hills command positions of the country for several miles in the direction of Port Arthur. I presume from the action at Kin Chou that the Russians intend to make another stand at Port Dalny. Their justification for defending Kin Chou must have been the belief that their numbers were able to cope with ours, so I expect that practically all the available Russian troops have been moved out from Port Arthur in the attempt to head off the investment."

### San Domingo Rebels Win.

CAPE HAYTIEN.—A serious battle was fought today between the Dominican troops and the revolutionists at Esperanza, on the road from Monte Cristi to Santiago, near Mao. The revolutionists were victorious. Many were killed or wounded on both sides.

Gen. Raoul Cabrera, minister of war, who commanded the government troops, was killed and his body was taken to Navarrete.

The revolutionists are before Navarrete, where another battle will be fought.

The government troops are waiting for re-inforcements.

The United States cruiser Detroit and the gunboat Newport are off Monte Cristi.

### Iowa Issues Requisition.

DES MOINES, Ia.—Governor Cummins today issued a requisition for Thomas Dennison of Omaha, who was recently indicted at Logan, Ia., for alleged complicity in the Pollock diamond robbery. The requisition was granted on an affidavit made by Frank Sherelle, who is serving a term at the Fort Madison penitentiary for robbing Pollock, a traveling salesman, of \$17,000 worth of diamonds, and who implicated Dennison. Attorneys for Dennison strongly resisted the issuing of the requisition, and say they will also ask Governor Mickey of Nebraska to refuse to grant extradition papers.

State's Attorney Fallon today furnished an affidavit from Shercliffe in which he boldly implicates Dennison in the robbery.

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## NEBRASKA NOTES

Graduation exercises were held at Douglas six students receiving diplomas.

The 1904 class of the Seward High School listened to the baccalaureate address by the Rev. F. Levitt.

The remains of Grandma Hollenbaugh, who died in Omaha were interred at Falls City last Sunday.

The Fremont Commercial club is having a little boom as the result of the good work done for the past year.

A. C. Walsworth, formerly of Cambridge, died at Los Angeles, Cal., where he had gone for his health.

The Rev. J. D. Murphey preached the baccalaureate sermon to the graduates of the Table Rock High School.

The funeral of J. J. Bishop who had resided in Sarpy county for thirty years, occurred at Springfield last Sunday.

An old stable was destroyed by fire in Beatrice. Everything was saved except a valuable pacing horse belonging to a Mr. Scott.

Farmers in the locality of Beatrice expect to finish planting corn this week. Early planted corn is coming up, and the stand is good.

On Thursday evening of this week the Weeping Water High school exercises were held. Seven students comprise the class this year.

Charles Carpenter, a track walker, was held up by four tramps near Shelton, Sunday morning and robbed of \$1.40 at the point of a pistol. The tramps escaped.

Dennis O'Brien died at Columbus Sunday morning, aged 51 years. Mr. O'Brien had lived in Columbus for twenty-two years and was a member of several secret societies.

Professor W. H. Simons has been elected principal of the Table Rock schools for the school year of 1904-5. Professor Simons was last year principal of the Elmwood schools.

The funeral of Mrs. Harry Citre who died at her home in Albion was held from the residence. Friends and relatives from Valley, Neb., and from Newman Grove and Seward were present.

Old soldiers and their wives assembled at the home of Henry Turner in Harvard. The home was crowded and old war stories were told and camp songs sung, after which a luncheon was served.

One of the Falls City real estate men offered prizes this spring for the "best-kept lawn" in that town, the contest to close on September 1. The idea is growing in favor and every lawn in town is in prime condition.

Mrs. C. A. Lyons of Fullerton, who mysteriously disappeared from her home some time ago, has been located in South Dakota where she claims to have gone to take up government land. She started for Walla Walla, Wash., when she left home.

Beatrice lodge No. 26, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, met and elected the following officers: Clarence A. Spellman, worshipful master; J. Ed C. Fisher, senior warden; Edgar C. Price, junior warden; Gilbert L. Cole, treasurer; Burt L. Spellman, secretary.

Thomas Mortimer, manager of the Stanton County Breeding company's ranch, located eight miles northwest of Leigh and George Hotel, a local stockman left for Chicago with special train load of fourteen cars of fat cattle. This stock was exceptionally fine, it being raised by the shippers.

Rev. R. T. Campbell, who has been principal of the Pawnee academy for the last ten years, at a meeting of the board last week tendered his resignation. He plans to spend some time in study and then resume work in the ministry. It is reported that all the rest of the faculty except one, also resigned their positions.

The Schlessinger saloon case which was set for hearing before the district court, as anticipated, was not tried before Judge Grimes, but was heard and adjudicated with Judge Hostetler on the bench. In accordance with the special provisions in such cases the court must decide such cases on the evidence given before the city council, hence the lawyers on each side reviewed the evidence, aired their opinions, after which the judge rendered a decision in favor of the saloon, which was open for business a short time afterward, and the case may now be considered closed incident.

Captain Mack of Company M, Nebraska National Guard, has issued an order for the members to be at the armory for the purpose of marching to St. Edward, a distance of twelve miles, to take part in the Memorial exercises of that day. They will then march back to Albion and participate in the Decoration day exercises in Albion Monday, May 30. This will give the boys a sample of real army life and will also prove a good outing.