

Our Deceiving Senses.

Many readers no doubt are familiar with Saxe's version of the Hindoo legend relating the impressions of the six blind men who went to see the elephant; but few probably read it with so much as a passing thought to the great realm of mental phenomena at which it hints. The first, it will be remembered, happening to fall against the elephant's side, pronounced him like a wall; the second, feeling of his tusk, thought him like a spear; the third, taking his squinting trunk in his hands, found him to be very like a snake; and so the fourth, fifth and sixth, judging from his leg, ear and tail, each in turn insisted that he was like a tree, a fan and a rope. A little reflection will show, of course, that the difficulty with the six blind men was not inaccurate perception, if there really be such a thing; but insufficient observation for a correct generalization. Most, if not all of our knowledge of the external world is gained through the sense organs; and since few subjects in that external world are of elementary simplicity, it follows that the ideas of most things are more or less logical aggregations of all the perceptions to which it has given rise. Thus the pencil I hold in my hand manifests itself to me in manifold ways. I see its form, its size, its colors, its individual peculiarities of surface. I feel its smoothness in places, its roughness in others, its form also, and even distinguish between the wood and the graphite; I felt it in my hand or on my finger; I smell the odor of the cedar, and (do I?) taste it also, in the same way perhaps getting also a sensation differing from the others, from the graphite; and then I tap it with another pencil and hear the sound produced. Now all these, and many more, percepts, each more or less distinct from the others, go to make up the idea of the pencil.

There are some grounds for gratification in the report made by the Interstate Commerce Commission as to the number of railroad casualties during the fiscal year ended with June last. It appears that within the period mentioned 3,764 persons were killed and 68,989 injured, which is a decrease of 1,236 killed and 3,297 injured as compared with the preceding year. The showing is bad enough, but the returns suggest better conditions. It is also noted that during the last quarter of the late fiscal year 13 passengers were killed in train accidents, the smallest number on record for that length of time. May the improvement continue.

It seems that the new postage stamps which Postmaster General Meyer is about to issue will be something in the nature of a restoration of an old design, rather than an entirely new one. There is occasion for popular congratulation that the fine old Houdon profile of Washington, which is the best and most distinguished ever produced, is to come back after five years of retirement to reoccupy the position it held for half a century. It goes back not only to the two-cent stamp, but on the nine other higher denominations, leaving the profile of Franklin on the one-cent stamp, where it has remained from the first.

The old-fashioned covered wooden bridge across the Connecticut river at Hartford has been replaced by a beautiful granite structure described as the largest stone bridge in the world. Both the Carlsburke across the Moldau at Prague and the Waterloo bridge over the Thames at London are longer, but they do not approach the 82-foot width of the Hartford structure. Whatever may be said of the advantages of iron or steel bridges they do not produce the restful impression of strength and permanence which is one of the great attractions of a stone bridge.

Emperor William has raised his daughter-in-law, the crown princess, to the rank of colonel of the regiment of which her husband is only the major. Many a husband readily admits that at home he is the second in command, but what did the kaiser mean when he gave the princess higher military rank than that of his son?

The shah, having tired of experimenting with constitutions, may as well be prepared for tests of bombs, daggers and like devices for bringing home to a monarch his own unpopularity.

The second of the new White Star line 60,000-ton steamships has been appropriately named the Titanic. Some idea of the size of modern ships may be formed if one recalls that the tonnage of the whole Spanish Armada, which was wrecked off the coast of Ireland, was less than that of the new ship.

Here's a good idea. Bank tellers are to stamp "counterfeit" on all bad bills presented to them. That will stop one kind of endless chain.



SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened," opens in Washington with the United States and Japan on the verge of war. Guy Hillier, secretary of the British embassy, and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovers. The government is much criticized because of its lack of preparation for strife. At the most inopportune moment Japan declares war. Japan takes the Philippines without loss of a man. The entire country is in a state of turmoil because of the government's indifference. Guy Hillier starts for England with secret message and is compelled to leave Norma Roberts, who with military officers also leaves Washington on mysterious expedition for an isolated point on the Florida coast. Hawaii is captured by the Japs. Country in turmoil, demands explanation of policy from government.

CHAPTER III.—Continued.

"Am I right, sir," he said, "in construing that white flag you raised as a sign of truce? And if that is so, I should like to be informed as to why at the same time you lowered the United States flag from the peak?" "The general, choked with mortification, hesitated for a moment, and then found himself unable to express his relinquishment in words. He slowly withdrew his sword from its belt hooks, and held it, hilt foremost, toward the admiral, who seemed unable to realize that it was tendered in surrender. There was a moment's silence, in which he looked down at that trusty old blade of steel, never before dishonored by a conqueror's hand. He glanced inquiringly at his fellow countrymen, and then at the others, as if questioning their sanity.

"I regret to say, sir," the general answered, "that the flag was raised in surrender not only of this fortification, but of all military forces on the islands."

"The admiral gave a quick start of surprise and jubilation as the significance of this unexpected action dawned upon him.

"The total surrender of the Philippines?" he questioned, as if it was beyond comprehension that without further effort this island kingdom of the sea was tranquilly to be turned over to the first enemy who battered a challenge on its gates.

"The general, beyond words, nodded in confirmation. In a few quickly spoken sentences the admiral translated the details of the conversation to his compatriots.

"Goaded by the sneers and satirical exclamations with which this was greeted, the general broke into a sudden blaze of wrath, shook a clenched fist under the admiral's very nose, and in white heat exclaimed: 'Yes, it comes easy; but it's no fault of mine! I'm obeying orders. If I had my way I'd have seen you in hell before this happened. I would, so help me God!'"

"As a signal to the waiting fleet, they ran aloft the rising sun emblem of Japan, while the discomfited officers of the United States retired to the barracks for the almost hopeless attempt of explaining the situation to the puzzled garrison. These were soldier like, quick moving, wiry men from the west, proud of their country and their crops, and were of the kind that could not understand dishonor through mere obedience to higher orders. They stormed and swore, and for a time it seemed that mutiny would spread throughout the fortress, man the great guns, tear down the flag of Japan and send hurtling masses of defiant steel out into the ranks of that force which had come upon them in a night and won an unearned victory. But they, too, were creatures of discipline, and in the end reluctantly accepted fate.

The great armada slowly gathered way and crept forward almost beneath the towering walls of the silent forts. Boat after boat brought its load of marines ashore and discharged them on ground which in other wars had been stained with the blood of valorous men. Here on these beaches had stepped the armies of old Spain, coming as pioneers to battle with savage foemen. In former years the waters of this bay on another day in May had floated the vessels of brave Dewey's fleet, had rocked and quivered beneath the impact of his guns, and witnessed the raising of his victorious flag over the smoldering ramparts. And with such a history of glory behind it, the moon on this night rose over a land silent, conquered, and abandoned, as if it was of no more value than a tiny pebble cast into a tropical sea."

CHAPTER IV.

The Harness of War.

A breath of summer swept over the land, giving promise of wealth of bloom and prodigality of harvest; but the plow stood idle and rusted in the waiting fields, the meadows went unshorn, and the crops, in which lay the riches of peace, unplanted. Everywhere was the growing din of anarchy and the stern clangor of war. A people who had never tamely bowed a head beneath a yoke, nor rebelled at just ruling, found themselves distraught in the whirling current of unreasonable tides which carried them out to they knew not what.

A tame yielding of territory over which their flag had once flown, an equally passive surrender of islands which had come to them of their own

volition, seeking in the spread of the eagle's wings the shadows of security, and, last of all, as a crowning climax of folly, the sending of warships to neutral ports! From east to west, as the oceans run, from the border line of the north to that of the south, there swept over the great waiting nation a call to arms. No dam built by mortal man could have stemmed that rising tide of indignation save the one that was erected by the administration in the hours of its stress. News of it came unheralded as had all the ominous stories preceding it.

Even at the moment when an overthrow of the governing power at Washington seemed imminent, there flashed across the wires from governor to governor the quick and insistent demand for fighting men. In every armory was heard the resounding clash of rifles. A hundred thousand men, drilled for the emergencies of a country's need, sprang to their weapons like tensely strung warriors of old awaiting the pretor's command to charge. A country, which through days of defeat had seemingly slept, sprang into the harness of strife, as if electrified by the God of Battles. Sim-



They Ran Aloft the Rising Sun Emblem of Japan.

ultaneously with the ordering out of all National Guardsmen and a further call for volunteers, which received instant response, every railway traversing the country was requisitioned by the war department.

Yet, in all this turmoil the destination of this suddenly mobilized and splendidly powerful army remained a secret. In vain the press of the country and its most influential citizens demanded knowledge; but not till the day when from all directions swarms of armed men sallied forth, was this information given. And as if blackened by a scourge of locusts, the Canada's awakened one morning to find that along 3,000 miles of border land were spread a line of soldiers, the most singular line of repulse ever stretched between nations. It was one of excommunication.

Not even the commanding officers as they took their stations knew the whys or wherefores of this most remarkable move, although their instructions were of the simplest, and were that under no circumstances were there to be acts of unfriendliness nor, even under provocation, movements of aggression. They were to stand as an insurmountable barrier between the United States and the dominion, prohibiting traffic, passage, and communication, and nothing more. No man might cross the border, and wires, which in days of peace carried from one country to another the news of the day, were cut and torn from their poles as if no further word might ever be transmitted through them.

Nor was this all. Wherever a cable touched on all the outer edges of this great land might be found soldiers in charge. Wireless telegraph stations were abruptly closed, prohibiting the use even of the air itself. Proclamations were issued that instructions had been given for the perforation of any airships attempting outside com-

munication, and the penalty of instant death was threatened any aeronaut who disobeyed this command.

From every seaport vessels of all nations, friendly or unfriendly, were summarily excluded. Protests from captains and from companies were ignored. The United States was suddenly blockading not only its own means of communication, but sealing its ports as well. No message might be carried in or out, and, as if fearing also for its southern border line, the soldiers of the regular army were placed there. The vessels of the navy which were in the home waters of the Atlantic were put on patrol duty, steaming up and down the eastern coast with the regularity of policemen on their beats. To the world at large the United States of America might never have been. The fabled Atlantis of old could have disappeared no more completely nor been cut off more effectually from intercourse with outside mankind than was the great American nation.

Whatever criticism and surprise had been caused among other powers by the abandonment of the Philippines and the Hawaiian islands was outdone by this latest move. Never before in the world's history had a nation enforced complete isolation upon itself, withdrawing within its shell as does a turtle when assailed. Hitherto it had been the custom of a people attacked to maintain an outward seeming of uninterrupted commerce and unimpeded communication. No modern government had yet had the temerity to shut its ports to friendly nations, scorn intercourse with them, and trust to its own resources for support and maintenance. Protests from friendly powers were unheeded or unavailing, because after a few

abled his country a frank admission that the policy of the United States was completely beyond his comprehension, and that whatever of the situation might be known from personal observation would be explained by his secretary, Guy Hillier, due at any moment in London. The ears of Europe were therefore open for such communications as might be imparted by this young man, who for the moment became of paramount importance.

Thus it was that Hillier, arriving at the Liverpool docks, found himself the center of all interest. A swarm of newspaper correspondents, more or less distinguished in their profession, sought interviews; but, warned in advance by wireless telegraph, he declined all conversation. The wharf was black with people, who anxiously craned their necks to catch sight of the man who was expected to elucidate the greatest mystery of the age. A guard of constables formed a hollow square round him and forced their way up the long, tunnel-like shed leading to the train which was to convey him to London.

When he had gained his seat in a compartment reserved for his use, and the train whirled away past neatly-walled farms, prosperous villages and great cities, he wondered at the strange trend of events which had thrown him so prominently into the foreground. He smiled in irony as he reviewed his own actual knowledge of the situation, and realized how little he had in the way of information in comparison with what he was expected to divulge.

At Euston station he was escorted to a carriage, and whistled a soft note of surprise as he recognized on the panels the prime minister's coat of arms. Plainly he was to be subjected to what in America he had heard called the "Third Degree." Surreptitious nods were exchanged by a crowd of loungers, and such comments as "That's him!" and "E's the bloke wats goin' to tell us about it!" floated to him as the footman slammed the door behind, mounted the box and whipped the team into a gallop.

He was ushered into the sacred precincts of the prime minister's private chamber, and found awaiting not only that important person but the foreign secretary, and a lord of the admiralty as well. The ponderously sealed packet from his ambassador was torn open and read aloud. It contained the following startling statement from his perturbed and irate superior:

"I have the honor to inform your lordship that I am in a country evidently inhabited by maniacs. I have painstakingly sought a logical explanation for the acts of this government, and frankly admit that I am unable to understand either its attitude toward his majesty's government, its proposed plan of campaign, or what the effect of this war will be upon other nations. I have been persistently refused any intimation as to what has taken place or is intended. In a personal interview with his excellency, the president of the United States, I have been positively informed that his country will under no circumstances permit any demonstration against Great Britain, but that it may become necessary to suspend intercourse for a time. I cannot tell what is meant by this, nor would he give me further information. The attitude of the administration, backed up by congress, is that of supreme egotism and self-sufficiency, despite the position taken by the people and the press, as shown in newspapers which are sent herewith. In view of the uncertainty of the situation, the enigma presented by the United States government's attitude, and the threat that within 48 hours all exchange of communication will be suspended, I deem it wise to suggest that his majesty hold himself in readiness to make an overpowering naval demonstration in these or Canadian waters, if need should arise. I am sending this by my secretary, who can answer any questions of a more pertinent nature as well as I could."

The letter, written in the crabbéd hand of the ambassador, was slowly read aloud, those present straining their hearing that no word might be lost, and at its conclusion they sat dumfounded.

"You were there, I believe," said the prime minister, slowly swinging back and forth in his swivel chair, and addressing the secretary, "when the news of the surrender of the Philippines was received?"

"Yes, your lordship."

"What excuse had the government to make for such unwarranted action?"

"None whatever."

"Do you mean to say that they suffered without protest or defense the surrender of a fortification which cost millions of pounds, was adequately equipped and able to repel successfully the attack of such a fleet as Japan sent against it?"

"Yes, they even accepted it complacently."

From round the room came murmurs of amazement, while the rustle of newspapers showed the anxiety of those present to glean what information they could be perusal. Losing their phlegmatic air of self-possession and casting official dignity to the winds they bombarded Hillier with questions, which in the main he was unable to answer. The voice of the stately lord of the admiralty rose above the others in a sudden, insistent petulant question.

"Do you know anything else worth while?" he asked.

"No," answered Hillier, "I have no knowledge other than that which I have given to you, which in itself was gathered elsewhere than from an absolutely silent and secretive government."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

WHAT THE DOLLIES HAD.

Small Wonder That the Little Mother Was Really Alarmed.

Little Mary was really very ill. Mother said she was sure it was an attack of appendicitis, but Grandma was equally sure the little one was threatened with convulsions.

The argument waxed warm in Mary's presence, and appropriate remedies were used, and the next day she was better.

Coming into her mother's room during her play she said:

"Mamma, two of my dollies are very sick this morning."

"Indeed, dear, I am very sorry. What is the matter with them?"

"Well I don't really know, mamma, but I think Gwendolyn has 'a pint o'spiders' and Marguerite is going to have 'convulsions.'"

INTOLERABLE ITCHING.

Fearful Eczema All Over Baby's Face.—Professional Treatment Failed.

A Perfect Cure by Cuticura.

"When my little girl was six months old I noticed small red spots on her right cheek. They grew so large that I sent for the doctor but, instead of helping the eruption, his ointment seemed to make it worse. Then I went to a second doctor who said it was eczema. He also gave me an ointment which did not help either. The disease spread all over the face and the eyes began to swell. The itching grew intolerable and it was a terrible sight to see. I consulted doctors for months, but they were unable to cure the baby. I paid out from \$20 to \$30 without relief. One evening I began to use the Cuticura Remedies. The next morning the baby's face was all white instead of red. I continued until the eczema entirely disappeared. Mrs. P. E. Gumbin, Sheldon, Ia., July 13, '08. Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

HORRORS!



"What's the trouble, Zambo?" "I thought it was missionaries, but it's a load of Altruists."

Wise Kid.

My seven-year-old niece—writes a correspondent—is an up-to-date young woman. She has a passion for study, and thinks of little but her lessons. The other day I remonstrated with her.

"Lila," I said, "you are working too hard. Why do you do it?"

"Well, auntie," she answered, gravely, "I heard somebody say that the education of a child should begin with its grandmother. And I expect to be a grandmother, some day."

Important to Mothers.

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Opinion of an Expert.

"I hear you are going to marry Charley?"

"Yes; he asked me last evening."

"Let me congratulate you. Charley is all right. He is one of the nicest fellows I was ever engaged to."—Stray Stories.

That an article may be good as well as cheap, and give entire satisfaction, is proven by the extraordinary sale of Defiance Starch, each package containing one-third more Starch than can be had of any other brand for the same money.

A Perfect Gentleman.

Codling—Why did you speak to that howld tramp, dear boy?

Softy—Why shouldn't I, old chap? He isn't in twode, and he doesn't work faw a living.—Penny Pictorial.

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Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c. You pay 10c for cigars not so good. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

For what the mind wishes, that it also believes.—Helioborus.

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