

SMUGGLED ACROSS EUROPE.

The History of the Orloff Diamond from the Date of Discovery.

The famous Orloff diamond was originally the eye of an idol in Trichinopolis, says the London Mail. It was stolen, according to the accepted account, by a Frenchman, who escaped with it to Persia, where he sold it for the equivalent in our money of \$1,600 to a Jewish merchant. This Jewish merchant sold it to an Armenian named Shafraz, who had traveled in Russia, and conceived the idea of taking the diamond to that country and selling it to the Empress Catherine for a great sum. Shafraz paid \$10,000 for it. Having secured the stone the next question was how to get it to Russia, or rather how to conceal it when he was searched by robbers, as he was sure to be on the road. The journey was a long and perilous one and thieves abounded everywhere. He began almost to feel he had a white elephant on his hands, when a thought occurred to him. He procured a sharp lance, made a cut in the fleshy part of his left leg and thrust the diamond into the wound. He sewed up the cut with a needle and a silver wire. It healed, leaving the diamond imbedded fast in his leg, quite out of sight. Then he started for Russia. On the way he was seized by robbers again and again and was thoroughly searched. Being an Armenian, and suspected of going to Russia to trade, the thieves marveled naturally greatly at finding nothing of value upon his person. He arrived at Russia at last and, after extracting the diamond, visited the empress. He was willing to sell it for about \$30,000, but the empress had not so large an amount available in cash for the purchase and Shafraz preferred to go on to Amsterdam, the seat of the diamond-cutting industry, where he had the stone polished. Here Count Orloff, an extremely wealthy Russian, saw the diamond and was filled with a determination to secure it for the Russian crown. He did secure it, but Shafraz extracted from the Russian government \$30,000, an annuity of \$4,000 and a title of nobility. He died a millionaire.

"I was afflicted with sore eyes and I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla. After using it for a short time I was entirely cured and have not been troubled since." Ethel E. Albr, Mount Clara, Neb.

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THE USEFUL PEANUT.

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The humble pebbelian peanut is in a fair way to be wrested from its obscure sphere and to be placed in the front ranks of popular and pleasing eatables. Physicians have declared that the nut is "rich in albumen, containing 50 per cent of it, and that it also contains 20 per cent of fat and non-nitrogenous extractive matters." All kinds of dishes are now being prepared of peanuts, soup being especially recommended. It is made as split pea soup is made, soaking the peanuts over night. Peanut sandwiches are said to be excellent, made by pounding the skinned nuts and spreading thickly on slices of buttered bread. Mayonnaise dressing may be mixed with the nuts or grated cheese. Boiled in salted water, roasted and salted, pounded, or grated, the peanut is becoming a staple food.

This paper from now until the adjournment of the Nebraska Legislature for 90 cents. Subscribe now and get an honest report of the proceedings of the populist legislature.

South Dakota Majorities Small.

PRESS, S. D., Dec. 5.—The unofficial footing of the Presidential vote in South Dakota is as follows: McKinley, 11,042; Bryan, 41,324; Levering, 550; Congress—Crawford (Rep.), 40,590; Gamble (Rep.), 40,943; Kelly (Pop.), 41,125; Knowles, (Pop.), 41,947.

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Notice of Incorporation.

Notice is hereby given that articles of incorporation have been filed in the office of the county clerk of Lancaster county, Neb., according to the statutes of Nebraska, as follows: 1. Name, Central Land company. 2. Principal place of business, Lincoln, Neb. 3. Nature of business to be transacted: To buy, hold, sub-divide, lease, sell and convey, mortgage and encumber real estate. To borrow or loan money, to buy, hold, sell, transfer and assign all kinds of real, personal or mixed estate in all lawful ways, and to transact such other business as may be auxiliary thereto. 4. Authorized capital stock, \$25,000, to be paid in such assessments of such per cent and at such times as shall be ordered by the board of directors. 5. Commenced business October 12, 1896, and continue for twenty years. 6. Indebtedness not to exceed two-thirds of capital stock. 7. Business to be conducted by a board of directors. Officers shall be president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

THE MATE OF THE HINDU

By Captain RALPH DAVIS.

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(CONTINUED.)

"I hope so," I replied. "I was wondering a bit," he said as he looked around in a stupid way. "Did you notice anything peculiar?" "It might be peculiar and it might not. I happened to be looking at Hooper, and I saw him wink at Johnson as you started to come forward. What's the good of the muskets without caps on the nipples?" "What do you mean?" "I mean that I took notice of four muskets which could not have been fired if there was need of it."

The seven guards did not have watch and watch with the sailors. During the day all were on duty, and at night two of them were posted below as sentinels and relieved by others every two hours. As soon as I could get a word with the doctor I told him about the muskets. He went forward in a careless way and looked around and returned to report that every musket was properly capped. This did not lead me to argue that Haskell had been mistaken. On the contrary, I was satisfied that the caps had been slyly replaced when there was no longer any danger. They could not have been removed by accident. There was evidently an understanding between a portion of the guards that they would not fire upon the prisoners in case of an outbreak. I carried the matter to the captain, as was my duty, and he was for raising a row at once. I argued with him that as we had no positive proofs the trap would be sprung too soon, and he finally gave in and agreed to play a waiting game.

Now for the first time I began to size up each one of the guards. I had hired them all, and at the time they had struck me as being a very decent lot of men. As I looked them over now I wondered at my lack of perception. Aside from Larkins, who had the cut of a cunning rascal, there were three men who had the hangdog look of villains. I couldn't bring myself to admit that I had ever engaged them, and after a little reflection I solved the puzzle. Three of the men I had engaged had been replaced by these three, probably being paid to make the exchange. I had engaged a one eyed man, for instance. I remembered that another had a long scar on his cheek. A third had fiery red hair and yellow front teeth. Not one of those men was on board, and yet others had assumed their names.

I was now perfectly satisfied that a plot had been hatched ashore for the release of the convicts, and that at least four of the guards were in it, but I said nothing to the captain. I did take Haskell into my confidence, however, and from that hour very little took place on deck or below that escaped our attention.

I have said nothing thus far about Mary Williams and her parents. As a matter of fact, the girl herself was so upset the day she came aboard that she kept her cabin for a week. It was hard lines in flying from disgrace to find herself penned up with the villainous cause thereof, and when she finally came on deck she was so pale and thin that I did not at first recognize her. Fortunately for the family no one on board connected them with the unfortunate affair at Dudley, and that was certainly a matter for congratulation. Upon my first meeting with Mary she made a strong effort to repress her emotion as she gave me her hand and said:

"While we are both sufferers from the same cause I wish to ask your forgiveness that a friend of mine should have brought the trouble upon you."

I was much embarrassed—more so than she was—over the situation, but I managed to tell her that she had no need of excuses and that I was sorry for her troubles and had already forgotten mine. We could congratulate ourselves on having come out of the affair with flying colors, and yet I could not fail to see that she had taken the matter deeply to heart. Through no fault of hers she had brought sorrow to her parents and a smirch upon her own reputation. The fact of her loving and being betrothed to such a villain at all, and especially in opposition to her parents, had given the public gossips a chance to deal her some hard blows.

I told you I was in love with Mary Williams, but as to her having any feeling for me beyond what the situation might be expected to bring out I make no claim. After being dealt such a blow no sane man could expect her thoughts to turn to love. Change of scene and lapse of time might work in my favor, and I must be satisfied to wait. What bothered me just then, however, was to know just how she felt toward Ben Johnson. As a proud and honest girl her affection for him must have been dealt a terrible blow, but we all know that a girl will sometimes cling to an unworthy man in a manner to fill everybody with amazement. My desire to learn her feelings was soon gratified. She asked after him—how he was conducting himself and what sort of record had followed him on board from the prison, and when I answered her she continued:

"I am appalled when I look back and realize how blind I was, though the villainy in his nature never revealed itself to any one until that terrible night. I believe it was pity I gave him more than love. I cannot help but pity him now, even though the sight of him fills me with horror."

Whenever Johnson's gang was on deck, the fellow always had his eye cast for a sight of Mary, but as soon as she understood the routine she remained below and out of sight. From the look of his coming aboard I had never caught his eye, but yet I had never come near

him that all the devil in his soul did not appear in his face. I fully realized his deadly hatred, and had no doubt that his burning desire for revenge would fill his head with plans of revolt.

CHAPTER VII

THE FATE OF THE ALBATROSS.

When we had been a few weeks at sea, there was much to commend and very little to find fault with. I stated in a previous chapter that no batch of convicts had ever mutinied until after leaving the Cape of Good Hope. The reason for this will be apparent if you consult your map. In running to the south every craft was in the great highway. Had the convicts got possession of a ship there were no uninhabited islands for a refuge. Had they landed anywhere on the west coast of Africa, the savage natives would have snatched them up. The hour of peril had come when a craft was approaching the Australian coast. If the convicts got possession, they could either land on the great island or sail to the north and find innumerable small islands to offer them shelter.

While we took every precaution from the very beginning of the voyage, we nevertheless depended in a measure on the facts above stated. After while the convicts appeared to steady down and be desirous of making good records, and the behavior of the guards was all that could be asked for. For a month or more I had kept close watch of the four men previously alluded to, but nothing had occurred to make me doubt their loyalty. Haskell had been allowed to saunter about as he pleased, and whenever an extra guard was wanted he was always on hand, but none of his reports as to the conduct of guards or prisoners was calculated to cause any particular anxiety.

One morning, as we were holding our course with a fair wind, we rose an Indianan coming up from the south, and two hours later she signaled that she wished to speak us. The Hindu was lying to when she came up. The gang of convicts on deck was ordered below, but we were flying the flag which told every beholder what sort of a cargo we carried. The Indianan proved to be the Black Prince, a regular liner, homeward bound, and she dropped a boat and sent her mate aboard. His errand was to see if we could give passage to the Cape to a man named Thomas, who had been picked up at sea two days before while drifting on a raft. He said that Thomas was an Englishman who had been wrecked on a voyage to the Cape and was very desirous of continuing the run in that direction. The mate was in a great hurry, as his ship had been delayed by head winds, and he did not go into particulars. Captain Clark decided that we would take Thomas, and a quarter of an hour later he was on board and the respective crafts swinging their yards to resume their voyage.

It was midafternoon before we got Thomas' story, and it was one to deeply interest us. Only a few days before our sailing a ship called the Albatross had taken out a batch of about 300 convicts, half of whom were females. None of them was above common criminals, and for this reason they were not as carefully watched as they should have been. The ship carried only four passengers, all men, and of these Thomas was one. He had an uncle at the Cape and was going out in search of adventure. He felt certain there would have been no trouble with the prisoners but for the uncalled for measures enforced by the doctor. He overworked and underfed them and flogged men on the slightest pretext. By the time the Albatross had left the Cape Verde islands behind her two-thirds of the men had been flogged and half the females had been punished in some other manner.

When the crew of a convict ship betrays open sympathy for the prisoners because of the cruel treatment accorded them, one must be satisfied that those in authority exceed the limits. Even the guards on the Albatross condemned the tyrannical conduct of the doctor. As I have told you, they were offenders rather than criminals, and all had received short sentences. They were sent out more as colonists, and each one would receive a ticket of leave after serving for six months or a year. It was not until the doctor had repeatedly announced that he would break the spirit of every one in the gang or flog him to death that the spirit of mutiny cropped out. The position of the ship was to the south of St. Helena when the climax came. One of the women convicts had transgressed some rule, and the doctor ordered that she receive a dozen lashes. While he was making preparations the convicts rose as one man and had possession of the ship in five minutes.

It was a mutiny against the doctor and three or four of his guards rather than against the ship, and had the captain kept faith with the mutineers it would have been far better for all on board. Two of the guards were killed in the first attack. The doctor was made prisoner, and an hour later was hanged at the yardarm. The convicts had no further grudge to satisfy, and simply asked that they be landed on the Rottentot coast. This the captain agreed to, but during the night put the ship about with the intention of making St. Helena and giving the prisoners up to the authorities. His deception was soon discovered, the ship held off to the east, and next day the mutineers determined to rid themselves of every one in the ship who would not join them and share the dangers of their future. The captain, mates and 13 sailors refused to join, as also did 8 of the guards and the 4 passengers, making 31 people in all. The 9 cooks and the captain's steward had no option, but were compelled to join. Two boats were lowered, plenty of water and provisions put aboard, and the captain and his people were treated with the greatest consideration.

Thomas was in the mate's boat. Its course was shaped for St. Helena, but a gale came on and blew them far to the south. After a week of battling with the elements it was decided to run for

the Cape, but in another gale the boat was upset, and every man lost except Thomas. He was washed to the keel and had been without food or water for three days when picked up by the Black Prince. As to the fate of the captain's boat and the convict ship he of course knew nothing, but I will give the particulars here as I learned them two or three years afterward. The captain's boat hauled in for the African coast after the gale spoken of, and finally landed with everybody badly used up and the boat no longer able to float. There were 11 men in this boat, and only 8 survived to reach the Cape. Not a single person on board the convict ship knew anything about navigation. The people simply knew that the coast was to the east of them, and they held for it through all sorts of weather. A due east coast would have landed them in Damara Land, above Walfish river, but the point they did reach was Cape St. Mary, on the Benguela coast, 600 miles above.

With such a batch of convicts in possession of a ship one might be prepared to believe that drunkenness, fighting and murder were the order of the day. Such was not the case, however. On the contrary, good order and thorough discipline were enforced. While all were considered to be on an equality and all were served with the same food the men had sense enough to realize that any laxity was a direct menace to all. If retaken, every male convict would be hung and every female get life imprisonment. All the testimony afterward secured went to show that not one single pint of rum was served out, although there were 30 barrels of it on board. On making the coast the Albatross was run into a river and put up for a distance of ten miles. The people then landed, removed everything from the ship and burned her. The plan was to journey far inland and found a settlement, but discussions bogged down, and the crowd finally split up into five or six parties and went their respective ways. An English man-of-war, after long search, recaptured five men and three women, while four other men and two women reached St. Paul de Loanda and gave themselves up. The fate of the others is not known to this day.

Many of the passengers heard the story told by Thomas, and most of the particulars somehow reached the convicts within two or three days. We could not fail to perceive a change in their demeanor, and that change was something to increase our burden of anxiety. All convicts look upon themselves as victims or martyrs. No batch of men ever sent out were receiving better treatment than ours. Instead of the doctor being too severe, he was altogether too lenient. The convicts made themselves believe, however, that they were being badly used. Three days after Thomas came aboard they made a formal protest that they were overworked. The doctor, acting on the advice of the captain, refused to take any action. As a matter of fact, the convicts were not busy half the time. Two days later they made protest that their food was not only bad, but insufficient in quantity. The provisions furnished by the government were wholesome, and no real fault could be found with the cooks.

Ben Johnson had acted as spokesman in both instances. No other ship's doctor would have allowed him to open his mouth. On the second occasion Dr. Haxton, who had been coached by the captain, made reply:

"I have seen fit to overlook this breach of discipline, but don't try it again. The next protest you present will bring you a round dozen on the bars back."

That seemed to end the matter. The captain, the doctor and others were inclined to regard it as a game of bluff, but it struck me that the fellows gave in altogether too quick. My position as mate made it impossible for me to play the detective, but Haskell had the run of the ship and kept his eyes and ears open. On the morning of the fifth day after Johnson had presented his second protest I came on deck at 4 o'clock in the morning. About an hour later, when the watch had settled down into the routine, Haskell came out of the cabin smoking a pipe and made excuse that he was troubled with insomnia. He soon let me know that he wanted a word with me in private. The bark was driving along before a steady breeze and needed little watching, and presently we got out of earshot of the helmsman. Then Haskell said:

"The three guards below will be relieved at 6 o'clock. At 7 o'clock four of them muster on deck to receive the first gang, leaving three below. The four on deck will be re-enforced by two sailors, who will receive their muskets from Hooper."

"Yes, that is the programme," I answered, but having no suspicion of what was coming.

"Every sailor aboard is all right as far as I know," resumed Haskell. "You have spare muskets aft. When Hooper musters his guards on deck, you must be ready to replace the four with sailors and see that their muskets are loaded."



A number of files were found about his clothing.

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