

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,

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 1892. 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 Scamset 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



MELVILLE E. WYGANT.



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name compares favorably; for example: Acts of the Apostles. This is a name found in an English parish register: Acapostle, 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 Balaclava 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

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.
Mrs. 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 benedictines, 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 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



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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 Sated.
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 tink dat respectability ain' much more dan permission to work hard for what us people gits for nothin'."

Mission Chain Across Africa.
Rev. George Grenfell has been commissioned by Robert Ainslie, 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 oxcart 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.

Artificial Marble.
Manufacturers are actually making marble by the same process by which nature makes it, only in a few weeks instead of a few thousand years. They take a rather soft limestone and chemically permeate it with various coloring matters, which sink into the stone, and are not a mere surface coloring, as in scagliola. The completed material takes a fine polish, and many of the specimens are of beautiful color and marking. Used as a veneer, it is about one-third the price of nature's marble.

Development of Good Apples.
Apples are new in the economy of the world's use and taste. At the beginning of the last century few varieties were known. And we can go back in history to a time when all apples were little, sour and pucky—crab apples and nothing else.

REVENGE IS SWEET.

What Happened When Patience Had Ceased to be a Virtue.

There is an unusually quiet citizen up near the crown of Piety hill who is just now thinking a great deal of himself. One of his neighbors has three pet dogs. When separated they are well behaved and considerate to strangers, but when together they seem to regard it as an imperative duty to try to eat any agent or other strange caller at the house. After they had bitten three little children belonging to the quiet citizen, torn his wife's best gown, and snapped at him while he crossed the lot, he decided that duty as a husband and father called for action on his part. One evening he reached the house with a bulldog, bred in the purple, and much to be admired because he was so excruciatingly ugly. In a few days he followed his master wherever he went. Thus assured, the man made a call on his neighbor with the three pets. The French bull wanted to play, and cut great antics in trying to entice the trio into the game. They just snarled, showed their teeth and darted at him when the opening seemed favorable. Finally he was bitten on the end of his stub tail by the Scotch terrier, and he made a rush that his master checked in time. "Let him go," urged the host. "He's not dangerous, and the dogs can take care of themselves. I'll be responsible." The quiet man demurred until the pets were charging right into his lap after their prey, when he let go as if to protect himself. The imported cyclone had the air full of dogs for about three minutes. There was a continuous crash of bric-a-brac, all the light furniture was dancing, the host was kicking about wildly, and the quiet man was making an admirable bluff at trying to restrain his property. When the entertainment was over the sitting room looked like a junk shop. The neighbors had some little argument about whether the bull pup should be killed on the spot, and when the quiet man left he went out backward, cautioning his neighbor in a low tone of voice not to do anything rash. The neighbor has given away two of his pets, and advertised for one of these fighting white bulldogs with pink eyes. —Detroit Free Press.

JOHN MUIR AT HIS WORK.

The Good Man's Discoveries on the Muir Glacier.

"For twenty-five years John Muir has made out of doors his realm. For more than half this time he lived and wandered alone over the high Sierras, through the Yosemite valley, and among the glaciers of California and Alaska, studying, sketching, climbing. At night he sometimes rested luxuriously, wrapped in a half-blanket beside a camp-fire; sometimes, when fuel was wanting, and the way too arduous to admit of carrying his piece of blanket, he hollowed for himself a snug nest in the snow. He is no longer a young man, but when last I saw him he was making plans to go again to the North, to explore the four new glaciers discovered last summer by the Harriman expedition. "What do you come here for?" two Alaskan Indians once asked him, when they had accompanied him as far, through perilous ways, as he could hire or coax them to go. "To get knowledge," was his reply. The Indians grunted; they had no words to express their opinion of this extraordinary lunatic. They turned back and left him to venture alone across the great glacier, which now bears his name. So trifling a matter as their desertion could not deter him from his purpose. He built a cabin at the edge of the glacier, and there settled to work, and to live, for two long years. He made daily trips over that icy region of deep gorges, rugged descents and vast moraines, taking notes and making sketches, until he had obtained the knowledge, and the understanding of the knowledge, that he was after. Muir Glacier is the largest glacier discharging into the wonderful Glacier Bay on the Alaskan coast. Being the most accessible one in that region, tourists are allowed to go ashore to climb upon its sheer, icy cliffs, and watch the many icebergs that go tumbling down from it. This is a thrilling experience to the globe-trotter, but to dwell there beside the glacier, to study the phenomena, encounter perils, alone and unaided, is an experience that few besides John Muir would court."—Adaline Knapp in Ainslie's.

Blouses Novel.
As for blouses of lingerie materials, they will be altogether novel when worn with a corselet skirt of black taffeta, which will lace or button in close princess lines or in loose folds that will be drawn up high over the bust. The blouse of white lawn is tucked and lace inset to a marvelous degree, and the sleeves, tucked down from the shoulders, spread into simply enormous bishop's, which are gathered at the wrists into a deep flounce of lace that entirely covers the hands.

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ARTIFICIAL LEGS.

HOW THEY ARE MADE AND ADJUSTED.

Every Year Limbs That Approach More Nearly to Perfection Are Being Turned Out—Wonderful Mechanism of Wooden Legs of Today.

For the advance that has been made in the construction of artificial limbs the railroads are to be thanked. They cause a demand that is always growing as regards quality no less than as regards quantity. To meet this demand the limbmaker, straining every nerve, finds himself turning out each year limbs that approach more nearly to perfection. The wooden leg of to-day is a wonderful mechanism. While it is much like the real leg it does not equal the real leg in any respect, and alongside of a real leg it will always be seen to be a poor enough makeshift. Yet, hidden under shoes and trousers, or a skirt, it serves; it enables its wearer to walk without a cane; it cannot be told from a natural leg. It seems, if you take it up and examine it, to be made of pink wax. It is made, as a matter of fact, of English willow, strips of English willow, covered with rawhide that is enameled pink. It is hollow, and it is very light—from four to five pounds in weight. The foot is always very delicate and small, the ankle slender, the calf large and round—"a good leg," you would say, approvingly, of its shape. But the foot has no toes; it ends in a solid strip. Suppose you have had your leg cut off above the knee. You will then require one of the most complicated wooden legs made, one with a joint at the knee and another at the ankle. You wait until your stump is perfectly healed and healthy, and then you visit the wooden legmaker. The wooden legmaker takes a cast in plaster of the stump. He measures your remaining leg carefully. "Return," he says, "in such and such a time." When you return the leg is ready for you. A thick stocking, called a stump stocking, is put on your stump, and over that the leg fits much as a glove fits over a hand. The stump sets into the leg so that the weight falls on the sides, not on the end, of the stump, and thus soreness is avoided. An arrangement of straps about your shoulders and breast holds the leg in place. You try to walk, and if you are fairly self-confident, you will walk well from the start. You will be surprised to see that, somewhat, the knee and ankle of the wooden leg bend in harmony with the other knee and ankle. When you sit down the wooden leg forms itself naturally into a right angle at the knee, and when you walk the foot flexes itself on the ankle. What causes this? The joints work like the joints of a wax doll—easily, smoothly, firmly. The foot, pressed on the floor, causes the ankle joint to work; the bent of the natural leg at the knee causes the wooden one to bend there in sitting down. You decide that you are not badly off, after all, and pay \$100 to the legmaker and depart. Your purchase will last you about five years. It will then be worn beyond remedy at the joints, and you will have to get a new one. This will annoy you; you will have got accustomed to the old leg; the new one will not seem the same until it, too, will be about worn out. In case of amputation below the knee the wooden leg costs only \$85, and no shoulder straps are required. A kind of leather drawer is attached to the top of the leg, and laces up to the stump firmly. An artificial foot costs \$45. A wooden legmaker said: "Only one in twenty are women. This is because women lead sheltered lives, because they don't work on the railroads, in the mines, or among dangerous machinery. Women, while they abhor false limbs for themselves, do not mind them on other persons. A woman will not hesitate to marry a man with a wooden leg. One of the prettiest women I ever knew married a man who had two legs of wood, and she is happy. A man, on the other hand, would not marry a woman with a wooden leg under any condition. That is where men and women differ. Women are more spiritual and more unselfish than men. A person who wears an artificial leg will have a wonderful and beautiful development of the shoulders, back and chest. His waist will always remain slim and supple. His figure, the older he grows, will approach nearer and nearer to perfection. This is because the management of the artificial leg falls to a tremendous extent upon the muscles of the shoulders, back and chest, and these muscles are getting daily a magnificent series of exercises. I know a young man with two wooden legs. He walks with a cane, and his depth through the chest, his breadth of back and the width of his shoulders, well set off by the slimmness of his waist, causes people on the street to turn and look after him with approbation. It is impossible to tell how many artificial limbs are made in this country in a year. There are three factories for their making in this city, two or three in New York and one in Milwaukee. Legs first were made of cork, which was not durable, then of aluminum, which was not durable, either.

Isaiah Workers' Skill.
There can be no presumption that the inmates of a lunatic asylum are dangerous or unskillful workmen from the fact alone that they are insane, holds the Supreme court of California, in the case of Atkinson vs. Clark (64 Pac. Rep., 769), and a superintendent of an insane asylum who allows some of the inmates to assist in tearing down a brick wall is not liable for an injury received by a regular workman, who was also engaged in the work, unless the evidence shows that the superintendent was careless or unskillful in the selection of the inmates.

Gen. Botha's Practical Joke.
A good story is told of the meeting between Botha and Kitchener when they tried to arrange terms of peace. At the end Botha said: "Well, I must be going." Kitchener replied: "No hurry; you haven't got to catch a train." "But that's just what I have got to do," said Botha. And two days afterward a train was held up and looted on the Delagoa line, not very far from the place of meeting.

What Money Cannot Buy.
But pretty nearly every one has forgotten that even if Carnegie money paid the student fees in the Scottish universities, the students would still have to furnish the midnight oil, the wet towel and the brains to comprehend. There is still no royal road to learning.—Detroit Journal.

Carnegie's First Library Gift.
Andrew Carnegie's first gift of a public library was to his birthplace, Dunfermline, Scotland. He said at the time that it was a good place to begin, because "the first public library the little place ever had was the collection of three weavers, one of whom was my father."

E. Pluribus Unum.
The use of the "E Pluribus Unum" on coin was never authorized by law. Its first known use was in a New Jersey cent struck off in 1776.

CHECKS FIRES ON SHIPS.

Berlin Chemist's Invention Impregnates Air with Carbonic Acid Gas.

It is well known that fire cannot burn in an atmosphere strongly impregnated with carbonic acid gas. This fact has been utilized by inventors, with the result that we have had fire grenades in many public buildings and factories, and experience has repeatedly demonstrated their value. Some experiments have recently been made in Bremen in connection with a mode of extinguishing fires on board ship, invented by a Berlin chemist named Gronwald, that is based upon the theory of the hand fire grenade. The objects aimed at and said to have been attained by the new system are: First, to give timely notice, by means of a special apparatus, of any fire which may break out in the hold of a ship; and, second, to extinguish promptly the fire by pumping carbonic acid gas into the hold. Two piles of wood were built up in the forehold of a lighter. The large logs were mixed with smaller blocks of wood and a quantity of wood shavings soaked in petroleum. On the tops of the piles of wood was spread about a fourth of a ton of coal, and in the hold was placed an iron basket filled with coke heated to a perfect glow. The two piles of wood were set alight simultaneously at 4:07 o'clock in the afternoon. The fire developed quickly with the hatches open, and at 4:21 the hatches were closed. Then carbonic acid gas was pumped into the hold for twenty-one minutes, and ten minutes later the hatches were opened. The fire was found to be extinguished completely. The fire alarm worked perfectly, and the thermometer on deck showed correctly the rise and fall of the temperature in the hold. The inventor claims that when a fire breaks out in a ship's hold, if his system is followed the fire will be announced automatically on deck; it will be kept under observation from the deck and extinguished by operations carried out on deck.

The Lachrymal Fluid.
Tears have their functional duty to accomplish, like every other fluid of the body, and the lachrymal gland is not placed behind the eyes simply to fill space or to give expression to emotion.

The chemical properties of tears consist of phosphate of lime and soda, making them very salty, but never bitter. Their action on the eye is very beneficial, and here consists their prescribed duty of the body, washing thoroughly that sensitive organ, which allows no foreign fluid to do the same work. Nothing cleanses the eye like a good, salty shower bath, and medical art has followed nature's laws in this solution for any distressed condition respect, advocating the invigorating of the optics. Tears do not weaken the sight, but improve it. They act as a tonic on the muscular vision, keeping the eye soft and limpid; and it will be sympathetic tears gather quickly have brighter, tenderer orbs than others. When the pupils are hard and cold, the world attributes it to one's disposition, which is a mere figure of speech implying the lack of balmy tears, that are to the cornea what saline is to the skin or nourishment to the blood.

A Drinking Orchid.
A strange species of orchid has been found in South America along the Rio de la Platte, the land of peculiar plants and flowers. This particular orchid whenever it feels thirsty takes a drink by letting down a tube into the water. When the tube is not in use it is coiled up on the top of the plant. It is highly interesting to watch the working of this plant. When it feels that it needs water the tube gradually unrolls itself until it dips into the water. Then it slowly coils round and winds up, carrying with it the amount of water contained in that part of the tube which had been immersed, until the final coil is taken, when the water is dumped into the heart of the plant. Then the tube remains coiled until more water is required.

The plant grows at the edge of a stream directly over the water or where the water has been. Where the water has dried away it is almost pathetic to see the tube work its way over the ground in search of moisture to nourish the plant.

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