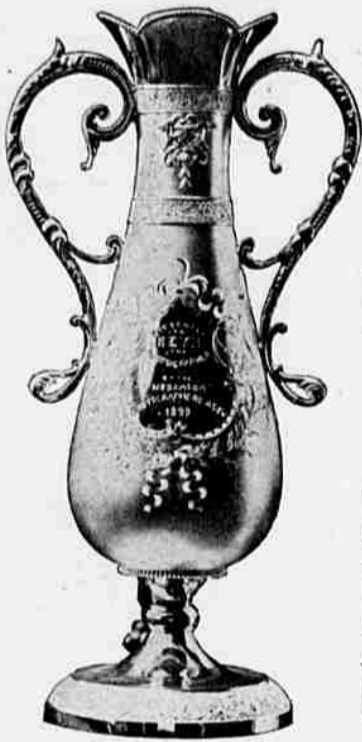




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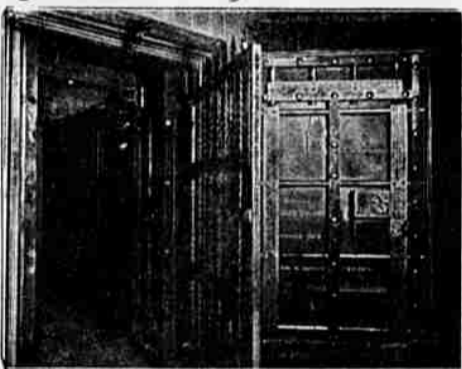
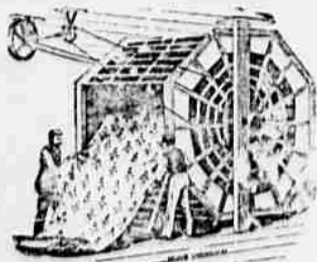


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The Sultan of Sulu

(Continued from Twelfth Page.)

now discovered that the purple couch upon which we had been so carelessly sitting was the royal throne! When the sultana entered we rose and stood until we had been introduced to her and she had seated herself. On her right hand was a white cotton glove of civilized manufacture, which, to our amusement, she had put on wrong, so that the buttons were on top. It was thus that



BATTLEFIELD OF MAJUBA HILL.

she armed herself against contact with the "Christian dogs." The space in the room was so limited that the maids of honor, of which there were two, were obliged to go outside by a back way and climb in the window. When the maids had successfully accomplished this feat (declining by a scornful sniff the proffered assistance of one of our officers), the exchange of civilities between her royal highness and General Bates commenced. The sultana hoped the general was well. The general hoped the sultana was the same, the sultana was honored by this visit, etc. The general finally expressed his wish to wait upon the sultan. The old lady begged that he would remember her son's extreme youth and added that the best thing that he could do would be to give him a little advice. A tender parting now took place between us on one side and the old dowager on the other.

His Palace Like a Shanty.

The palace of the sultan is about ten minutes' walk from the village. Harlem boasts of shanties of more elegant construction, though possibly of less room, for there is more available land in Sulu than in Greater New York. A square board house with a galvanized roof over part of it, and an extension at one side which contained the hall, a wall of stones about the whole—this was the residence of the sultan of Sulu!

We entered the gates and passed by three soldiers in khaki uniforms and red fezes who presented arms. These were three of five soldiers that the sultan had brought back with him from his visit to Mecca, and were evidently Arabians. Their ordnance consisted of five rifles, four of which were of different makes. The entrance to the house was through a small lean-to shed at one side which led into a room as bare as a barn chamber. The living apartments were above. A broad flight of rough board stairs with a strip of carpet down the middle led to the upper regions. We ascended and found ourselves in a large darkened apartment in the august presence of the Lari Paduka Maha Sari Maulana Sultan Hadji Muhammad Jamalul Kiram.

Guarded by His Soldiers.

The sultan was seated in a chair with a high back in one corner of the room, which had no communication with the outside air. Other seats were ranged before him in a circle, and directly in front of him was a high tabourette with a marble top. The sultan's vestments were gorgeous—a frock coat of yellow watered silk, a black vest with a gold chain festooned across, a white undershirt of muslin, flowing skirts and trousers of white gauze and patent leather pumps. A high fez of some colored material served as an understudy for a snowwhite turban which was wound about it. Later on, feeling oppressed by the heat of this headdress, he took it off and disclosed a small white fez beneath, which he wore during the rest of the conference.

The result of the conference is now a matter of official record. Over the discussion of one of the articles the sultan lingered all the time that we were there; it provided that he should always fly the American flag. Several years ago the sultan took a journey to Mecca. This was the event of his life. On his voyage, contrary to his own flag with the Spaniards, he flew his own flag. Nothing had happened to him. He felt that it would be incompatible with his royal dignity after making the journey once in this independent fashion to appear again with the American flag hoisted above him.

"Only once in many years," said the interpreter, "he makes a journey like this, and while he is willing to fly the American flag at all other times, he would like to fly his own flag then. If he did it once in safety, why not again?" This was the burden of all their talk for

several hours while we sat silently learning something of a people whose every idea was strange to us and yet for whom we were to be forever responsible before God and the world. I wondered how this little two-penny sultan, with an exaggerated idea of his own importance, would feel and act if he had an idea of the vastness and power of the great country whose emissary was so patiently dealing with him in his squalid capital of Maybun. There had been nothing in his narrow existence by which comparisons could be made, but England is a

great word in the east and some one had told him that we were greater even than that, so he knew that he must yield all that we asked; there was something infinitely pathetic in the way in which he clung to the last shadow of his sovereignty and in dealing with him General Bates was uniformly kind and courteous.

ANNA NORTHEAD BENJAMIN.

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