THE CRAFTY MILITARY SPY

A Dangerous Enemy to Every Civilized State.

MUST BE OBSERVANT

While Exhibiting a Total Ignorance of the Language of a Foreign Country He Overhears Many Important Conversations Regarding Military Secrets of Priceless Value.

There is a common and highly dangerous foe which civilized states have always to guard against—more so during times of peace than when war may be raging—and that is the military spy. He is a danger which menaces every nation, being largely employed by the respective powers of the world to discover the military secrets of other nations.

It is necessary that the man who travels about seeking other countries' secrets should be an excellent linguist, not so much so in order that he may speak the various languages, as to enable him to understand all conversation which he hears. As a matter of fact, a foreign spy often disarms suspicion by exhibiting an utter ignorance of the language of the particular country he may be visiting.

An English Government agent, while in Germany about two years ago managed to escape from a rather dangerous position by acting in such a manner. He had been sent there to try and obtain some information about a new war balloon which the German Government was trying, and decided to travel as an ignorant English tourist. He reached the neighborhood where the experiments were being carried out, but was not allowed to obtain a close inspection of the balloon.

After the experiments had been made, however, he followed the inventor of the balloon and some military friends into a neighboring inn, and sat himself down at a table near them in the hope of hearing some of their conversation. He called for "ein glas bier" in atrociously bad German, in order to convey the impression that he knew nothing of the language. But the military gentlemen still seemed to suspect him, and began talking aloud among themselves, in their own language, about the English "dog," and referring to him in other abusive terms.

The agent, however, took no notice whatever of the remarks, although he well understood their meaning, and sat smoking his pipe and drinking his beer in a manner quite unconcerned. This seemed to satisfy the inventor and his friends, who forthwith began to talk of the balloon experiments. In half an hour the agent had learned enough of the details of the invention—which was a very important one—to send a good report home, and thus enabled his government to learn what Germany was doing in the way of aerial warfare

It is on account of the espionage which exists in such countries as Great Britain, Russia, Germany and France that the military authorities of these Powers take the greatest precautions to prevent strangers from witnessing any special maneuvers which take place. Perhaps our readers will remember the great fuss which Russia made some time ago because two British officers would persist in hanging about the district in which the autumn maneuvers were to take place. The Russian authorities actually appealed to the British embassy about the matter, with the result that the officers were obliged to leave the neighborhood.

These officers were not spies, but, of course, their actions aroused the suspicion that they were, and Russia is particularly keen in guarding her military knowledge. In spite of the precautions taken by the Powers, however, there are very few maneuvers and military experiments carried out of which Secret Service agents do not obtain some knowledge.—New York News.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Happiness is the ever-retreating summit on the hill of ambition.

It's far better to be bent on economy than broke on extravagance.

The average poet is rich—in expectations.

A New York man has cured himself of dyspepsia by eating grass. Now we know what ailed Nebuchadnezar.

Old age may not bring wisdom, but it has a lot of fool experience to its credit.

One of the longest days in the average man's life is the one just before pay day.

The majority of our mistakes would never be noticed if we did not call attention to them.

Preachers have been bombarding his satanic majesty's stronghold for centuries, but he still holds the fort.

London Not So Wicked.

Instead of being the wickedest district in England and Wales, London stands third on the list, according to recently announced figures. First place in crime is held by Monmouth, while another Welsh country, Glamorgan, is second. The most virtuous county, negatively speaking, is also a Welsh county, Cornwall.

BUDAPEST, A MODERN CITY.

What Has Been Done to Make It a Rival of European Capitals.

Budapest is composed of the towns of Pest, Buda and O-Buda, the three being united as one municipality by an act of Parliament in 1872 The city had a population of 360,000 in 1881, and at this time has more than 750,000. This growth in population would be a remarkable showing of itself, displaying the city as American in spirit. But what is even more suggestive of Hungarian advancement is the work done in improving the city and making it a rival of the great capitals of Europe.

Budapest had an ugly river-front. The Government removed all the old buildings, and, in reconstructing the district, demonstrated what an attractive spot a levee may be. All the streets are repaved. Many boulevards are established. New public buildings are erected, and the old ones are gone. Old private residences and stores were torn down, and new ones stand in their place. The standards made by the municipal governments were accepted by the citizens, with the result that there is system and beauty in construction.

It is said by travelers that Budapest has been converted in about fifteen years from an uninviting city into one of the most beautiful cities in the world. And this chief city of Hungary is typical of the national spirit; it is a model among modern cities. Hungary is coming to the front, as any country must with a city which progresses so rapidly, and which, in progressing, regards aesthetic ideals.

Our Italian Citizens.

The Italian immigrant is the subject of a capital special number of that excellent periodical, Charities, and the Revista Commerciale has published the results of a statistical investigation of the Italians of New York City. One is astonished to learn that there are in that city 382,775 Italians, the great majority below 45 years of age, and nearly 50,000 are being added each year. Although 48 per cent. are utterly illiterate, the fact remains that they are "most valuable additions to our population." For instance, from the investigation made by the Committee of Fifty, of nearly 30,000 cases in the records of organized charity, it was shown that in 20 per cent. of the German cases, 24 per cent. of the American cases, 25 per cent of the English cases, and 38 per cent. of the Irish cases, the principal cause of distress was intemperance; in only 3 1 2 per cent. of the Italian cases was intemperance the cause. American city life is having a bad effect upon them The sudden change of diet is responsible for an increase of certain diseases The change from the stone cottage in the open fields to the dark and unventilated tenement of Mulberry and Mott streets has resulted in an alarming spread of tuberculosis. Doctor Stella, in his practice in New York, has known as many as twenty five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in one year in a single tenement-house. American Medicine.

The World's Warriors.

Two well known critics have recently argued that Germany is destined some day to a rude awakening Gen. Ricciotti Garibaldi believes that the blow is to come from France Wolf von Schierbrand maintains that the vainglorious, dissolute, overbearing, cowardly Prussian junkers and soldiers of 1806 have their counterparts in the German officers of to-day Describing the soldier of 1806 in an address to a gathering of his generals at Berlin four years ago the present emperor said: "The glorious soldiers of Frederick the Great had fallen asleep on their laurels, ossified in the trivial details of a senseless, antiquated drill; led by superannuated, unready and unwarlike generals; their officers no longer used to serious work and degenerated by luxury, sloth and blind self-glorification." Yet Wilhelm II. is himself the chief sinner, if Von Schierbrand is to be believed. A military correspondent says that the nobility hold an abnormal number of the higher appointments in the German army. Of the 166 infantry regiments of the Prussian army there are not fewer than thirty-two whose tradition is to exclude officers of bourgeois origin and the custom is gaining strength.

Tale That's Told in Philadelphia.

Robert D Carson of the Zoological Society recently made a trip to New York and greatly delights in telling an experience he had with an article which is now fortunately unknown in this city- a horse car. Mr. Carson said that he was riding along in the little dinky affair with several other passengers when suddenly the car, in crossing a switch, jolted the front wheels off the tracks. Rain was falling in an industrious manner and almost every one was feeling out of sorts. When the wheels left the tracks all the good humor left the car, and every one was angry. After considerable delay the conductor put his head in the door and shouted.:

"Say, all youse people in de back of dis car sit still, and all youse in de front come out and help put de car on de tracks." Mr. Carson and several other men distinguished by the title of "youse people" got out in the driving rain and pushed the front wheels of the car back on the tracks. Then the dinky little horse car with its cargo of "youse people" bowled merrily along the streets of up-to-date New York.—Philadelphia Press.

Beware of liquid food for reflection that is imbibed through a straw.

It takes some men a long time to discover their unimportance.

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THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL, ROCHESTER, N. Y

THE FILIPINO PUPIL.

Knows Little in the Beginning, But Is Capable of Learning.

Few persons in these islands, aside from those engaged in school work, appreciate to any considerable extent what the public school has accomplished or the momentous task that confronts the educational department, says the Manila Times No quarter of the globe has more crude, plastic, unformed material among its inhabitants of school age than the Philippine Islands The person who questions this assertion would do well to visit a public school and listen to answers from a beginners' class, in response to questions touching matters of common knowlegde Many Americans have the idea that the natty, bright-looking young Filipino is only deficient in a knowledge of English, and that the teacher's labor, so far as the rudiments of primary, or even secondary, work goes, is confined to the instruction in the English language. The idea prevails that the pupil has a practical knowledge of Spanish, and that in the common branches he is fairly proficient. Nothing could be further from the real facts. The pupil knows as little of arithmetic, geography, history, and the common branches as he does of English. Of Spanish he knows but little more than does the ricksha man of English.

For example, we shall take a beginning class at night school Twenty neatly dressed, bright-looking young men occupy the desks Let the teacher ask the question, "What is the largest city in the world?" He must be sure that they understand his meaning before any answers are permitted To this end he may speak English, Spanish, and Tagalog The answers, for originality, uniqueness, and incorrectness, will find no parallel outside of a similar class, a majority of which will give the distinction to the Philippines, with Manila a close second. China, Japan, Spain, and Hong Kong will come in for a few scattering compliments, but as a rule the pupil will confine his answers to the archipelago, naming towns and islands indiscriminately. The oldest and most experienced may let his imagination extend to Hong Kong or to Spain, but the latter is his ultima Thule, the limit of his vague knowledge of the outside world.

This picture has many redeeming features. In an adjoining school room the visitor sees another class taught by a young Filipino. The native teacher, who, probably two years ago, took his place in a class similar to the one first mentioned, now speaks fairly good English, and is working faithfully to instruct his own people. The Filipino pupil is not apt, as a rule; his faculty of retaining what he acquires is often discouraging, but it is well enough to understand that he has never been taught before.

In the Days of George III.

In the days of King George III of England the Persian ambassador to his court demanded but was denied precedence over all other foreign representatives He refused to go to court, causing it to be reported abroad that he was ill He met the prince regent at the house of the Lady Salisbury of the time "I am very sorry to offend your royal highness by not going to court," he said. "Now, sir, my sovereign, he tell me I go first; your people say I must go last Now, this very bad for me when I go back to Persia" So saying he made a significant pass toward his head expressing decapitation The prince tried to appease him "But, sir, you still angry with me, you have not invited me to your party to-morrow night" The prince explained that it was only a children's party, but the ambassador might come if he chose He did choose; for he went and, being the only ambassador there, led all the guests, thus scoring heavily for Persia, which made him comfortable about the neck again.—Exchange.

Tired Nature's Yawn.

Yawning is not at all times an indication of a feeling of laziness More frequently it is an evidence that certain muscles have been overstrained and require rest. Medical men aver that a yawn is nature's demand for rest. Some people think they only yawn because they are sleepy. But this is not so. You yawn because you are tired. You may be sleepy also, but that is not the real cause of your yawning You are sleepy because you are tired, and you yawn because you are tired Whenever you feel like yawning, just yawn Do not try to suppress it because you think it is impolite to yawn. Put your hand over your mouth if you want to, but let the yawn come. And if you are where you can stretch at the same time that you yawn, just stretch and yawn. This is nature's way of stretching and relaxing the muscles. —London Modern Society.

The Stone Bounced Off.

The thickness of a negro's skull was demonstrated when Lulu Bell, a negro woman, was struck on the head by a stone weighing fifteen pounds thrown by another negro woman, Laura Scott, who was on the floor above her. The Bell woman received only a slight laceration of the scalp. She was treated by Dr. West, assistant police surgeon at police headquarters, and locked up. Both she and her assailant were fined $3 in police court.—Kansas City Star.

Walking delegates usually ride at the expense of others.

The man who is really good often has a sad look that is discouraging.

Necessity knows no law, and it is generally too poor to interest lawyers.

HOME LIFE OF THE RUSSIANS.

Their Monotonous and Inactive Mode of Living.

The daily life of a Russian couple of the wealthier classes is singularly regular and monotonous, varying only with the changing seasons In summer the lord of the house gets up about seven o'clock and puts on, with the assistance of his valet de chambre, a simple costume consisting chiefly of a faded, plentifully stained dressing gown Having nothing particular to do, he sits down at the open window and looks into the yard. Towards nine o'clock tea is announced and he goes into the dining room, a long, narrow apartment, with bare wooden floor and no furniture but a table and chairs. Here he finds his wife with the tea urn before her. In a few minutes the younger children enter the room, kiss their papa's hand and take their places around the table As this morning meal consists merely of bread and tea, it does not last long, and all disperse to their several occupations

The head of the house begins the labors of the day by resuming his seat at the open window and having his Turkish pipe filled and lighted by a boy whose special function is to keep the master's pipe in order. The housewife spends her morning in a more active way. As soon as the breakfast table has been cleared she goes to the larder, takes stock of the provisions, arranges the meals and gives to the cook the necessary materials, with detailed instructions as to how they are to be prepared. The rest of the morning she devotes to her other household duties

Toward one o'clock dinner is announced and Ivanovitch prepares his appetite by swallowing at a gulp a wine glass of home made bitters. Dinner is the great event of the day; Food is abundant and of good quality; but mushrooms, onions and fat play rather too important a part in the repast, and the whole is prepared with very little attention to the recognized principles of hygiene. No sooner has the last dish been removed than a deathlike stillness falls upon the house. It is the time of the after dinner siesta.

The young folks go into the garden and all the members of the household give way to drowsiness naturally engendered by a heavy meal on a hot summer day. Ivanovitch retires to his own room, from which the flies have been carefully expelled by the pipe bearer. His wife dozes in a big armchair in the sitting room with a pocket handkerchief spread over her face. The servants snore in the corridor, the garret or the hay shed, and even the old watch dog in the corner of the yard stretches himself out at full length on the shady side of the kennel.

In about two hours the house gradually reawakens, doors begin to creak, the names of the various servants are bawled out in all tones from bass to falsetto and footsteps are heard in the yard Soon a man servant issues from the kitchen bearing an enormous tea urn which puffs like a little steam engine The family assemble for tea

Tale of "Balled" Partridges.

In certain districts where the soil is exactly right (or rather exactly wrong) the partridges so carefully preserved in England are likely to be attacked by a peculiar misfortune known as "balling" says the Youth's Companion The word means simply that a partridge hatched out on a clay soil in wet weather may find the mud adhering to its feet as it struggles along after the mother bird

This is a small beginning, but the chances are that the earth accumulates Sometimes, indeed, the soil attached to the foot of a little partridge will increase from a mere speck to a weight of several ounces. A writer in Badminton says that the heaviest ball he ever knew weighed four ounces, and the bird that carried it was only half its proper size, although the rest of the covey were full grown The little creature could only move along in a kind of flying scramble, dragging the ball on the ground.

The clay was baked as hard as a brick, so that it was no easy matter to remove it Finally it was soaked off, and then it became apparent that the bird, without its accustomed ballast, did not know how to fly With every effort it tumbled head over heels and learned the natural mode only after long trying

The fate of a "balled" partridge which is not rescued by some kindly hand is a cruel one Day by day the burden grows heavier and the more the chick scrambles after its companions the larger its burden becomes Finally it is no longer possible to move at all and then the little thing can but give up and die

Naturalists say that this balling of birds is one of nature's provisions for scattering seeds. It is easy to demonstrate this, and the "answer comes true." One experimenter scattered the earth from a three-ounce ball over the top of a pan of ordinary dirt, which had been baked to destroy the seeds in it. Ten plants sprang up in due time, and developed into seven varieties.

A married woman is always suspicious when her husband gives her an expensive present.

The wise female doesn't attempt to monopolize the conversation until after she is married.

A young man's idea of an attractive girl is one who doesn't care for ice-cream or oysters.

A large portion of our standing army does a stunt on the street cars during the rush hours.

Cincinnati has a deaf and dumb barber, but with the aid of a phonograph he manages to pull through.