

## MODERN DAY PIRATES

Daring Buccaneers of the Canton and Yangtse.

## SOME VALUABLE LOOT

The Junks Work in Twos and Threes and Their Crews Often Board Ships Ostensibly in Search of Employment and Then Seize and Bind the Officers.

One is apt to think of pirates as an institution of the past, relegated to history and sensational works of fiction for boys. As a matter of fact, not a month passes without the various Consuls in China, especially on the Canton and Yangtze Rivers, are not obliged to make emphatic representations and claims to local Mandarins on behalf of the owners of steamers and sailing ships impudently looted by piratical junks, which fairly swarm in the great rivers of the Empire.

A very recent case was that of the Hamilla Mitchell. True she was a wreck, sunk in 160 feet of water off the Leucoussa Rock, near Shanghai. But she carried \$300,000 worth of gold and silver, mostly packed in small iron-bound chests. Lloyd's agent was instructed by the underwriters to visit the wreck and inform them as to the feasibility of recovering the treasure. He considered both this and the cargo lost, however, so great was the depth of water and so peculiar the position of the sunken vessel.

A diving party, with powerful tugs, was sent out from Liverpool, and a resolute attempt made, notwithstanding the report, to secure the treasure. First of all the wreck had to be found by dragging. She had broken her back, and the afterpart, containing the gold and silver, had rolled into deep water—more than twenty-six fathoms.

Divers R. Ridyard and W. Penk, after four unsuccessful trips down on to the sea floor, got access to the specie chambers, and sent up sixty-four boxes of treasure. This done both men, exhausted and thirsty, climbed to the summit of the rocky islet, and were astounded to see the horizon fairly alive with dirty white sails of piratical junks coming out from the mainland. Captain Lodge, in charge of the operations, at first resolved to stay and defy these ruffians, but having regard to the large quantity of treasure already lying more or less loose in his boat he decided discretion was the better part of valor, and gave orders to slip anchor and chain.

The wind was light and Lodge's men had to use oars. The pirates saw this and well knowing there was a rich prize before them crammed on all sail. Even the weary divers took a hand at the oars, and for some time the little treasure boat maintained a safe distance. Fortunately a breeze sprang up and Captain Lodge was enabled to make sail. Under cover of dusk he reached Shanghai safely, having run great risk not only of losing his hard-earned treasure, but also his own life and that of his brave men. Of course, he complained to the authorities and the local papers generally blamed the Mandarins of the Province for not giving the diving party sufficient protection.

It was afterwards found that the pirates made every effort to secure the remainder of the gold and silver from the Hamilla Mitchell, but having no modern diving dresses they found this impossible. In crowded Canton River piracy is notoriously rampant. The junks work in twos and threes, and their crews will often go on board a tramp steamer, ostensibly in search of employment and then seize and bind the officers and take possession of the ship.

Only the other day a gang of ten pirates boarded the British steamer Fienam and impudently held up crew and passengers alike. All were bound and robbed and then the pirates took charge of the vessel. Their leader deliberately ran the vessel into a Chinese launch, the Chanfook, whose passengers and crew were treated in like fashion, then taken on board the Fienam with the rest of the captives.

Having got all there was to be had the pirate captain disabled the machinery of both vessels and turned them adrift with their cargoes. Volleys were exchanged and the pirates essayed a sharp rush, hoping to overpower the guards. There was hand to hand fighting of the good old kind, but the pirates were beaten back. They retreated to their own junks, set sail, and escaped.

Another big launch, the Salyik, was attacked the next day and looted of \$5,000 worth of prepared opium, but it is perhaps on the great Yangtze journey from Shanghai into the heart of Szechuan Province that the Chinese pirate is seen at his best or worst.

For hundreds of miles the rocks in the Yangtze Gorge are worn smooth by the constant tread of their bare feet or straw sandals. There is little ceremony about the seizing of a valuable junk. Its master and crew are overpowered and the craft brought down to the great river and disposed of without question.

## BAT IN HER HAIR.

A Housemaid in San Rafael had a Trying Experience.

San Rafael is suffering from an invasion of bats, and despite the strenuous efforts of the citizens the winged pests have gained a strong foothold in various parts of the town. Because of their activity Miss Lilian Steadman, a pretty young housemaid employed at the Hotel Rafael, is mourning the loss of her golden tresses and incidentally suffering from a shock to her nervous system.

Miss Steadman climbed to the attic in the hotel on Saturday evening determined to drive out some of the bats. She was surrounded soon by a drove of the winged rodents and proceeded gamely to give battle to them.

One of the bats lodged in the young lady's hair and refused to budge. Miss Steadman, thoroughly frightened, ran screaming from the attic and the bat still clung to her, keeping busy with his sawlike wings till he had succeeded in cutting her beautiful tresses so badly that it was necessary to shear them off, much to the sorrow of the girl and her admirers.

## Growsome Private Museum.

The miscellaneous objects which have been collected by Harry de Windt, the traveler, who has started on a reindeer trip in the Laplands, form a growsome private museum. A Buddhist praying wheel, the skull of a Dyak warrior, Dyak shields adorned with hair from the scalps of enemies, daggers and spears in abundance, a Russian convict's dress, a set of chains which once hung from the legs and arms of a Siberian prisoner, and a genuine English cat-o-nine-tails are among the most curious objects.

## Reserved Adjectives.

Certain adjectives are reserved for men and others for women. A man is never called "beautiful." Along with "pretty" and "lovely" that adjective has become the property of women and children alone. "Handsome" and the weak "good-looking" are the only two adjectives of the kind common to either sex. Even "belle" has no real masculine correlative in English, since "beau" came to mean something other than personal looks. It is singular that "handsome" should have become the word for a strikingly good looking person, since its literal meaning is handy, dexterous. But "pretty" likewise comes from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning "sly."

## Saw Amusing Signs.

Major General Hood, who was the Australian officer attached to the Japanese army during the war with Russia, saw some amusing shop signs in Tokio—"Head-cutter" over a barber's; "Extract of Fowls" over an egg seller's; and "Ladies Furnished on the Upstairs" in front of a draper's. He had a memorable 24-hours railway journey in a compartment crammed with 40 men, women and children. He made a resolution not to fall asleep, but he woke up in the morning to find that "a patient little Japanese lady had been supporting his head on her shoulder."

## Australians May Turn Black.

Professor McMillan Brown, ethnologist, holds that the future Australian people will, in all probability be black. The Polynesians, he said in a lecture at Sydney, came originally from America, as has been supposed, but from Asia. They were whites and changed color just as the future Australian may do as the centuries go on, at least in the tropical regions of the north. The violet rays of the sun will turn him black in course of time.

## Early Marriages in Korea.

Extremely early marriage seems to be the fate of Korea's rulers. The latest sensation in Seoul is that measures are being taken to find a consort for the Prince Imperial, although he is only 11 years of age. There is talk of the daughter of the present Prime Minister, but whether that is by the desire of the Prime Minister himself or at the suggestion of Lady Kim seems to be uncertain.

## Paper Kettles For Soldiers.

The German army is to be supplied with paper kettles, a Japanese invention. Though made of pliable paper, they can be hung over a fire long enough to bring the water to a boil. One kettle can be used about eight times.

In all France there are only 1,100 persons who are millionaires in our sense of the word (in dollars). Of millionaires in francs there are about 15,000, apart from the 1,100 already counted.

The sins that worry us most are those most likely to be found out.

Some people's idea of charity is to give a starving man a peepin tablet.

An author never knows what bad stuff he can write till he becomes famous.

Many a man impresses us as not having strength enough even to break his word.

The one man who doubts that there is plenty of room at the top is the steepjack.

Ma's motto for framing: Desire, keep busy, and you'll get it.

## Tall Queens and Short Kings.

It is a curious fact that nearly all the present Queens of Europe are taller than their consorts. The most graceful woman among European royalties, Queen Alexandra, would perhaps come an easy first; our Queen is six inches taller than King Edward. The Czar is also much smaller than his beautiful consort, and according to the same authority, the German Emperor has a greater height than the Emperor. The King of Italy is known as one of the smallest rulers of his time, and scarcely reaches to the shoulders of the truly regal Montenegrin Princess whom he married about seven years ago. The Queen of Portugal also, we are told, is taller than King Carlos, and likewise the Queen of Denmark. Queen Louise is a Swede, and belongs to a nation of big people. The Queen of Rumania and the Queen of Spain also equal, if they do not exceed their consorts in height.—Westminster Gazette.

## Ghost a Bookworm?

One of the most curious "hauntings" occurs in a northern castle of great antiquity where Mary Queen of Scots rested when she was being conveyed a prisoner through England. It is manifested in the library and takes the form that the books cannot be kept in order. They move about, or are moved about, from shelf to shelf. If you arrange the works of Shakespeare in correct order on one shelf by next morning the volumes are scattered anyhow on different shelves. This has gone on for years. At different times the library has been searched, and locked, watches have been set all night, servants have come and gone, but the mysterious occurrences keep on, and is vouched for not only by the family but by the guests who have stayed in the house. There is no legend to account for it.

## Appeal to Force.

In 1817 one Richard Thornton, called to the bar of the King's Bench in England, charged with the murder of Mary Askford, in open court threw down the glove and defied his accuser. Whereupon there was a pretty to-do. Wager of battle, it was supposed, had died a natural death in the dark ages, but Lord Ellenborough, after much consultation of precedent, held that it was still the law of England and ordered a field to be prepared. Thornton's accuser thereupon declined combat, the prisoner was discharged. Next year Parliament passed an act abolishing this privilege of appeal to the strong right arm.

## Medical Training.

As a school of character it is doubt full if any better could be devised than the routine career of a medical student. It is not claimed that every medical student at the end of his five years' curriculum will be found to have become a saint. But if he has not developed many qualities of self-restraint, courage, gentleness, and forbearance it is not for want of opportunity of practicing these virtues.—Lancet.

## Research Workers.

In some German factories more than a hundred university graduates who are specialists are employed in research work. Concerning this point Professor Oswald says: "The organization of the power of invention in manufacturing on a large scale in Germany is as far as I know unique in the world's history, and is the very marrow of our splendid triumphs."

## The Graft Instinct.

A business man of New York City, with broad experience, calls attention to a marked difference that exists between Federal and city employees. "While you find the graft instinct at a minimum among the Federal employees," he says, "it is at a maximum among the city servants, whose minds and methods at once reach for it at the first opportunity."

## School Fund of Texas.

The permanent free school fund of Texas amounts to more than \$50,000,000 in value, and the revenue derived comes in large part from interest on bonds of the various counties, and much of it from rent or lease of school lands for grazing purposes and from interest on notes taken for deferred payments or land sold.

## Towns Named Alike.

There are 27 cities and towns named Troy in the United States, 19 named Athens, 17 Utica, 16 Alexandria, 16 Rome and 12 Carthage, not to speak of seven Attica and seven Syracuse. Only two States, Indiana and New York, contain towns bearing all eight of the names. Ohio and Missouri contain seven each.

## C Major for Indigestion.

Where the trouble is physical, such as failure of an organ, indigestion, congestion of the liver and so on, strong, firm, martial music will give best results, according to Dr. Letson, editor of Health Culture. For this class of treatment the key of C major is particularly recommended.

## Shark Migration.

Submarine exploration in the war in the Far East are supposed to have driven sharks to European waters. The sharks have passed through the Suez Canal into the Adriatic, and may even invade the Black Sea.

## AMERICAN RICE

Doubled in Supply and Exported to Many Lands.

About one-half of the population of the world depends upon rice as its main food supply. It we look, however, at maps showing the distribution of cereal crops we shall find a great difference between the distribution of rice and that of other grains. We shall see that maize, wheat, rye, oats and barley are scattered over wide areas covering, perhaps, the half of continents. The rice area, on the contrary, appears small and patchy. They lie in long narrow bands along the margins of the sea or in river valleys. The reason is, of course, that they are confined to low swampy districts where paddy fields may easily be flooded. Nowhere does rice spread out over areas of wide extent except in southern Asia, where the extensive lowlands are flooded or the valleys among the mountains are irrigated with infinite care.

Within the past four years the dream of a few theorists has been realized on the plains of Texas and in 1902 over 21,000 acres around Houston yielded 2,500,000 bags of marketable rice, worth \$5,000,000. In 1901, the year after the rice boom struck Texas, 80,000 acres were in rice in the neighborhood of Houston; and this year it is expected that 300,000 acres will be planted, all of it land that five years ago was worth only \$1 or \$2 an acre for grazing and could produce only four or five bushels of grain to the acre. Costly irrigation has wrought this transformation. It has been proved that the very best of rice crops can be raised on these prairie lands by spreading water over them and that the industry pays a large profit.

In five years we have increased the home product nearly one-half. We are changing the nature of our rice imports, which are now largely of the lower grades known as "brewer's rice," used in the manufacture of beer. Rice culture on lands that can be flooded only artificially was the problem in Texas; and its triumphant solution is turning a region of scanty production into very profitable farming lands.

## STATES SHORT OF TEACHERS.

In North and South Dakota They Get Married to Farmers. While in New York and most Eastern cities there is a constant rivalry among applicants seeking employment as teachers, North and South Dakota report a dearth of teachers in both. The condition is described as a "teacher famine" in many rural districts of the two States, partly due to the increase in the number of schools and classes and partly to the large number of marriages among the schoolmistresses.

The teachers were sticking pretty close to their hard tasks until the settlers began to move in large numbers. Many were bachelors. They did not long remain so. Following marriage there was a dearth of teachers. This card was tacked to a schoolhouse door in Hyde County, S. D., in a town in which it had been impossible to get a teacher from Feb. 1 to March 1:

TEACHER WANTED—If single, must be old and unattractive, two wealthy bachelors threaten to marry the next teacher of this school.

There were, at the time of the last school census, 4,083 teachers in North and 4,440 teachers in South Dakota. One thousand teachers in each State are men; the others, 3,080 and 3,440, respectively, are women. There is a steady inflow of population into the two States, especially into the rural districts, and a few years ago, when the hardships of travel for emigrants were greater than they are at present, the number of children requiring primary instruction was small.

At present the demand for female teachers in North and South Dakota is much greater than it has been at any previous time, and the favorite business opportunities offered for young farmers explain very readily why the ranks of the female teachers are, so to speak, "decimated by marriage."—New York Sun.

The editor who wrote his editorials with stolen chalk on the soles of his shoes, and went barefoot while the boys set up the copy, has purchased a room of second-hand envelopes and engaged a girl to turn them inside out.

Lord Holland told of a man remarkable for absence of mind, who, dining once at the same sort of shabby restaurant, fancied himself in his own home and began to apologize for the wretchedness of the dinner.

A melting sermon being preached in a country church, all the congregation were weeping, except one man, who begged to be excused, as he belonged to another church.

"Why does father call mother honey?" asked a boy of his elder brother. "Can't think, 'cept its because she's got a large comb in her head."

A baby is good stock on hand, but it makes bills payable and figures largely in the profit and loss account.

No tototaller can be consistent to the end. He may refuse while all his life but must come to his bier at last.

Character is the building of a life-time, but reputation is the Aladdin's palace.

The golden rule these days has about as much alloy in it as it will stand.

The man of the day is the man who prepared himself during the night.

## The Art of Happiness.

The art of happiness consists in being pleased with little things. People with great wealth or great power are seldom happy. The leaders of the world, great men or great women, are seldom satisfied. The society leader with millions at her command and the homage of many men and women, rarely knows the happiness that comes unasked to the young wife or mother in humble circles, says Home Chat.

The possession of money decreases the power of enjoyment. A child gets more pleasure out of a six-penny toy than a millionaire does from a thousand-pound yacht. Simplicity has greater value to the child than a thousand has to the millionaire. The joys of life belong to the little people—the quiet men and women who are satisfied to live their own lives and make little mark on the lives of others. It is in the power of the least of us to be happy and to make others so.

## What Japanese Women Wear.

A Kobe newspaper gives the cost of the wearing apparel of a Japanese woman of fashion. She wears \$13.75 worth of clothing under her kimono, which costs \$35. The obi costs another \$35. Numerous tying parasols sum up to \$17.50 and a set of footgear amounts to \$3. Combs and hairpins, ornamented with gems, cost \$245; a shawl, \$7.50; a diamond neck clasp, \$150; handkerchiefs, 25-cents each; a gold watch, \$180—about \$115 in all for a season. A middle-class woman wears about \$150 worth of clothing each year, according to the same newspaper.

## Whooping Cough Microbes.

The list of microbes continues to grow steadily. That of whooping cough must now be added to the list. Dr. H. Albrecht of the Wilhelm Hospital recently spoke on the subject before the Vienna Medical Society, declaring that he had discovered the specific agent that caused the complaint. There had for some time been a suspicion that a kind of bacillus was at the bottom, but Dr. Albrecht felt himself able to assert that whooping cough bacillus was identical with that of influenza.

## Worms Kite Cigars.

Tobacco dealers in India are greatly troubled by a moth or fly that finds its way into a box of cigars or tobacco and lays an egg that soon develops into a destructive worm or grub, which bores through the wrapper into the body of the cigar and ruins it. Hardly anything will keep these pests out except to incense each cigar in a bottle or wrap it in tinfoil.

## A Leaping Flame of Gas.

A Cleveland skyscraper, 20 stories high, will be topped by a Goddess of Liberty holding a torch, from which a leaping flame of gas will be burning at all times. The exact hour of the day and night will be indicated by causing the flame to shoot high into the air during the minute preceding each hour.

## New Railway for Peru.

Peru is considering the feasibility of building a 75-mile railway from the rich rubber districts of the Payta to a point on the Ucuayali River, which would turn the immense rubber traffic to Iquitos. At present these products are trucked to Iquitos, which thus gets the benefit of export duties on a strictly Peruvian article.

## Multiple Weddings.

The record for multiple weddings seems to be held by a small English village called Trill. The bridegroom was the fourth son of John Hock, a stealer, a prosperous farmer. The eight young persons have lived all their lives within a stone's throw of each other.

## Prize for Sign of Death.

A Frenchwoman has received a prize for discovering a reliable sign of death. The test consists of a subcutaneous injection of a solution of fluoresceine which, if the blood is still circulating, in the course of a few hours causes the skin to turn yellow.

## Chilean Merchant Marine.

During 1905 the merchant marine of Chile was increased by 34 vessels, with a tonnage of more than 10,000. The Chilean merchant marine now consists of 45 steamers and 90 sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 110,000 tons.

## Richest Unmarried Woman.

The richest unmarried woman in France is probably Princess Marie Bonaparte, daughter of the late Prince Roland. She is pretty accomplished, young and inherited a fortune from her maternal grandparents.

## Exporting Edelweiss.

One Danish gardener has succeeded in growing edelweiss, the Alpine flower peculiar to the highest heights of the Swiss Alps. The gardener is exporting large quantities of the flowers to Swiss hotels, where they are sold to tourists.

## Lock of Napoleon's Hair.

An interesting relic of Napoleon Bonaparte has been placed in the Nottingham Castle Museum. It consists of a lock of hair of the Emperor, which was cut off about 1815, after his death.

## Cleaning Laces.

It is not always possible to clean lace with soap and water. A successful method is to wash the material with warm water, then with cold water, and finally with a solution of ammonia. The lace should be well shaken, and the ammonia solution repeated once or twice. The cloth looks perfectly clean after shaking it once more. It should be pressed on the wrong side with a warm iron.

An old authority recommends the following chalk "pencil" as an actual means of removing grease stains from silk, woolen or flannel dresses. Reduce in equal parts chalk to a powder and mix with two ounces of very fine pipe clay, add two ounces of spirits of wine. Wash well into a paste, and then wash into balls and shape into rolls. Length and breadth of the rolls may vary. Let the rolls dry and they will be ready for use. The stain should be rubbed gently with the "pencil" and afterward washed with cold water.

## Lamp for Eye Examination.

The French scientist, Dr. F. F. F. has discovered that the light from a mercury vapor lamp, passing through two sheets of blue glass and reflected into the eye by a large lens, reveals the internal condition of the eye better than the ordinary light. By placing a screen between the eye and the lamp, a magnified image of the retina, which has been hitherto almost inaccessible, is obtained. The magnification is the diameter of which is equal to the diameter of a microscope lens, and it is even possible to see blood vessels.

## Night Ties for Children.

In Germany the mother of a young child is advised to wear a night tie. The tie is made of a material which is not soiled by the child's breath. The tie is made of a material which is not soiled by the child's breath. The tie is made of a material which is not soiled by the child's breath.

## The Alchemist's Dream.

The alchemist's dream of turning base metals into gold has been realized in a small way. A German chemist has discovered a way of producing gold from a base metal. The process is simple and cheap, and it is even possible to see blood vessels.

## The World's Largest Ship.

The world's largest ship, the German liner, has been launched. The ship is 250 feet long and 30 feet wide. It is the largest ship ever built, and it is even possible to see blood vessels.

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