

Two Americans Abroad

By F. A. MITCHEL

Wilkinson enlisted for the Spanish American war when he was seventeen years old, went to Cuba and fought the

end of the fracas. When the great European military confederation broke out, desirous of seeing something more of fighting, he went to Canada enlisted in the first expeditionary force that went to England and thence to France.

Wilkinson was a machinist and very ingenious. When the British commanders learned of this they wanted him to go into the mechanical corps of the army, but he said he had had enough of that at home.

But it is not every man who can get just what he wants, no matter how he arranges for it. Wilkinson had no sooner got into a fight than he was captured and taken to the rear. This was in Flanders during the late autumn of 1914.

One day an officer came into the prison where Wilkinson was confined and asked in English if there were any mechanics there who would volunteer to work at bridge building.

Wilkinson and Captain Kaufman being both Americans became quite chummy. Wilkinson impressed the captain so favorably with his knowledge of engineering that the latter proposed to take him to the chief engineer with a view to his entering the engineer corps of the German army.

Captain Kaufman took the prisoner into an automobile for a ride to a point where a large railroad bridge was being rebuilt. There he expected to find one of the chief engineer officers of the army to whom he was expected to turn over the American for service.

Naturally Kaufman was warm in his advocacy of the German cause, while Wilkinson's sympathies were with the allies. But they talked little on this subject, for Wilkinson, who had a plan to get away from his captor, led the conversation in a line that would facilitate his doing so.

"I tell you what we'll do, Kaufman," he said. "When this slaughter business is over and we both get back to the land of the free I've got the biggest scheme on hand for making money you ever saw."

"Where will we get the capital?" asked the captain.

"Capital! Why, there's capital enough in the United States to promote any scheme if it can be proved all right. I can get millions for anything I propose. My device is so simple that a child can understand it. Let me have a pencil and a piece of paper and I'll make you a drawing of it."

Kaufman had the wheel, so he couldn't get into his pocket without stopping, but they were approaching a village, and he said he would stop for something to smoke.

Returning with some cigars, a pocket book and a sheet of paper, he also brought something else that his companion didn't see. Lighting up, he said to Wilkinson:

"What are you smoking, Kaufman?" asked the captain.

BATTLES AND DOWNPOURS.

There is No Connection Between Gunfire and Raintstorms.

So far as the records are available, the rain accompanying or immediately following great battles is not unlike that which might have been expected in the course of natural events, says a writer in the Popular Science Monthly.

SWISS MILITARY SYSTEM.

Tests All Youths Must Pass Before They Become Soldiers.

The Swiss system is ultra militaristic and probably would never be acceptable to the United States. But it is interesting, nevertheless, as indicating how the problem of defense has been met and apparently solved by the earnest and patriotic people of a republic like our own.

The Sixteenth Century Carver.

At the formal banquet of the sixteenth century the men who carved the meat was bound with the red tape of precedent. Whod carving for distinguished guests he had to remember that certain parts of the birds or meat must be set aside.

Care of the Ear.

Never be alarmed if a living insect enters the ear. Pouring warm water into the canal will drown it when it will generally come to the surface and can easily be removed by the fingers.

Distraction.

What distraction do you make between entertainment and art? Entertainment is what people want when they go to the movies.

Declined With Thanks.

Beggar—'Won't you give me a nickel for my starving wife, etc? Pedestrian—'Nothing doing. I'm married already.—Philadelphia Ledger.

To Persevere in One's Duty.

To persevere in one's duty and to be silent is the first answer to calumny.—Washington.

Colonel Bunker

By M. QUAD

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"I was just thinking, sub," said Colonel Bunker, to be sat looking out of the window. I was just thinking of an incident in my early career as a duelist.

We were sports, sub. We rode, we gambled, and we swaggered. We talked about our hunch, and we took no advice from our elders.

"It was about a week after the professor's arrival, and some of us young blades had made his acquaintance yet when six of us sat on the tavern veranda of a summer evening arranging a fox hunt, when the stranger appeared among us, and, looking directly at me, he asked:

"May I have the honor of asking your name?" "I gave it as Bunker, of course. "Bunker, Bunker?" he repeated. "Did you ever spell it with an H?" "Sub? Sub? What do you mean?" "Was the name original, Bunker?" "I found the man was deliberately misleading me."

"I always thought I carried things off very well for a first time. I raised my hat, bowed and turned and returned to my quarters. "There you were, sub, there you were!" A due for snort was arranged for within an hour, and I was a hero.

"I was only when the word had been given and our blades had crossed that I found out I had caught a tartar. Why sub, the professor made me look like 15 cents. He disarmed me twice in ten minutes. He could have killed me during the next five or six seconds of his hand."

"At length after humbly begging for the best part of half an hour he pinned me in the shoulder and I was out of it. I kept lifting tears as the surgeon dressed my wound. The young bucks agreed that they must find someone to challenge the professor until some one had landed him."

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Improving the Fair / True.

"Look at this, my dear," said Mr. Newrich to his wife, displaying a fine piece of jewelry. "Oh, you have bought them for me, haven't you?" she exclaimed. "How sweet of you!" "No, my love, I have bought them for my grandmother."

"Your grandmother?" "Yes, dear. "But she is a bedridden nonagenarian. She can't appreciate them."

"True, dear. And she need never know anything about them." "What in the world do you mean?" "Simply this, dear. It is always advisable to have some heirlooms in a family that makes any social pretensions."

"The Profession of Mayor." In Germany, where efficiency has become a national passion, the profession of mayor of cities has been established. The people of the German cities reason in this fashion:

"We have here a big corporation. It is a big business corporation and more so. It is a big social organization as well as its efficient management much of our comfort, our health, our success depends. Therefore we will get the best manager we can find. If he does not happen to be in the city we will go outside to get him."

Left Over Feast Lamb.

To use left over roast lamb take it and cut away all the large and gristle and griddle through a food chopper or chop fine in a hand bowl then mix with six parts of parsley and two stalks of celery. Add crumbled soda crackers, one tablespoonful of softened butter, a little salt and pepper, one spoonful of minced onion and enough milk or water to make moist and then beat into an egg and form into a moderate sized omelet in a buttered pan place in a moderate oven and roast for twenty five minutes, basting with melted butter. Good drippings. Just before the last five minutes in spread a generous layer of fine breadcrumbs mixed with very soft butter. Turn and brown on both sides and garnish with sliced lemon or parsley.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Table Manners.

The good people of the church gave the poor children of the parish a beautiful New Year's dinner and the delight of the youngsters was much more manifest than their table manners. The little fellow was discovered clutching a doughnut in one fist and a lump of steak in the other. He was reproved for his breach of etiquette and took the reproof very meekly. But a moment later he turned to the dining next and remarked regretfully: "The trouble about these here table manners is that they was invented by some body who wasn't never really hungry."

Just Let Her Talk.

"How did you happen to marry that man, Irma?" "I'd like please you so well." "Oh on the contrary. But when I told him the reasons why I wouldn't marry him he listened to me without interrupting me for two hours so at last I accepted him."

An Eye to Business.

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True to His Profession.

Physician: "I'm sorry, but you are going to have to stay in bed for a week or so. I'm afraid your arterial condition is less than you would like to see under the X-ray machine. Publisher: "That's all right. I never made any secret of my circulation."

The Remedy.

Doctor: "You must go away for a long rest. Overworked Merchant: "But doctor, I'm too busy to go away." Doctor: "Well, then, you must stop advertising in the St. Louis Times."

What It Was.

"What's that loud talking going on up in your fat, Willie?" "Oh, that's just pa, losing another argument to ma."—Detroit Free Press.



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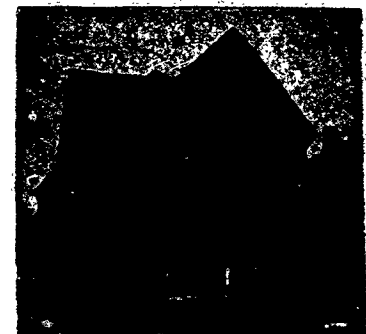
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