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A Member of Fire
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No. 6
By ESTHER VANDEVEER

SALONIKI, GATEWAY TO THE BALKANS

An Important Strategic Point
In Present War Drama.

A BEST SELLER

By MARY C. ATWOOD

There was a fire engine house to Mr. Singleton's city residence and it so happened that the place was an object of curiosity to his little daughter, Bess. The moment she heard the clanging of the gong announcing a fire she would run to the engine house to see the horses hurried to their places beside the tongue of the noisettes, plate impatiently till they were hooked together, dash out of the house followed by the rattle and bobble of the town and hiss.

The ancient city of Saloniki, known in former times as Thessalonica, is occupying an important position at present in the great war drama that is being enacted in Europe. Here the allied English and French troops landed to go to the aid of Servia upon the invitation it is alleged of the recent Venetian government. This government also pledged that no action by Greece should result to the benefit of Germany.

"Comstock has got out a new novel, 'See,'" said Collins to Bartholomew. "How old he got his start?"
"By a misfortune."
"Come, please to excite my curiosity and tell me the story."
"It was this way," Comstock tried scribbling at home, but made no success. Whether he wrote over the heads of the people, or under them, I don't know. His stories didn't sell. But Comstock had talent, and all he wanted was something to start him abroad. All Americans who succeed in literature make their living abroad, his friend said, and if Comstock was going to succeed he'd have to go to where there's a literary atmosphere there, that doesn't exist here. Besides, the crowned heads take an interest in literary work, and a king may make an author if he chooses."
"Comstock was persuaded and went abroad. He picked up a living for a while in London writing for the English magazine papers, then went on to the continent. He finally drifted to Constantinople, where he liked it so well that he stayed there a long while and learned the language perfectly."
"All this while fame refused to perch on his banner, but poverty did. When he was pretty near starved in Constantinople he got a job to write a serial novel for a daily newspaper there. He was to fill two columns a day, no more and no less. The price he was paid for his work was just enough to keep him alive."

She was six years old when this admiration for the apparatus, horses and men first developed itself and very soon she was noticed by the firemen sitting at the doors of the engine house in arm-chairs waiting for an alarm. One day one of them offered to show her the premises. She accepted the invitation and inspected everything with eyes as big as saucers. When she departed she was told to "make horse" at home there.
"And she did. She went in and out at her own sweet will, climbed up on the hook and ladder truck, the hose carts and occasionally would ask to be put on the back of one of the fire horses. One day when she was ten years old a roll of parchment was left at her home on which was written, "This is to certify that Elizabeth Singleton has been duly elected a member of the fire engine company No. 6." The words were surrounded by pictures of engines, discharging, burning buildings and treading fire, burning women and children down ladders from the upper story."



SALONIKI

She was on the ladder truck one day when an alarm came. No one noticed her till she was jumped on to the footboard putting on their helmets, then one of them saw her hanging for dear life to the ring of a ladder. It was too late to put her down. At the time, no one made a move to do so and she was made to the top. There was little to do in quelling the flames and since the ladder was not lowered she was permitted to remain perched high, an object of interest to a gathered crowd. On the return she was put down at her home and lectured by her mother.

of the Serbian army. By this invasion, the allied central forces are still bound by the spirit of her treaty with Servia.

Saloniki is one of the first ports of southeastern Europe and its annexation to Greece after the war of the Balkan League with the Turks was a bitter disappointment to the Bulgarians. Saloniki is only about 15 miles from Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, and for years the Greeks and Bulgarians vigorously contended with one another for this key from the Turks.

Saloniki has a population of 120,000 and an annual commerce, including its worldwide trade, to the value of \$15,000,000. A great part of the exports from Bulgaria, southern Serbia and northern Greece pour through this port. While many of the imports of the same name are distributed from there, the city is built on a sheltered natural harbor. It is well supplied with water, and is the only port in the Balkans where the waters are navigable.

Saloniki, which connects with the Paris Vienna Constantinople line, while on the other hand connects it with Moscow. It is by far the most important strategic point of the war theater for the prosecution of the allied campaign.

HARVARD RED CROSS UNIT.

University Sends Doctors and Nurses to the Front in France.
One million dollars in gold to help carry on Europe's war and thirty doctors and thirty six nurses to help mitigate the effects of the conflict went out of New York last of the other day when the Holland American liner Noordam sailed from her pier at Hudson.



Photo by American Press Association.
DR. DAVID CHEEVER

taken. The gold was taken on board the steamer in twenty cases, holding \$50,000 each.
"The doctors and nurses who sailed constitute the second Harvard unit of the Red Cross. They expect to be assigned to a first line hospital near Loos, France, where they will see much active service directly in the rear of the firing line. This unit will be connected with the British forces, though it is entirely neutral, according to Dr. David Cheever of the Harvard Medical school faculty, who heads it.

The Degradation of Matter.

If we examine the life history of any substance with sufficient knowledge and sufficient care, says the Engineer, we shall find that nature provides means and forces that little by little are turning that substance into dust. The manipulations of man greatly assist in the process. But nature itself is always active in it and even without man's aid is quite competent to achieve the task. At times we strive to hinder the process, as, for example, when we apply paint to iron-work in order to prevent it from rusting. But we can hinder it only for a time, and even then we merely check the degradation of one substance by degrading another. Thus we have constantly to renew the paint on our iron-work. The former coats disappear wholly or in part, and the material of which they were composed has turned to dust. We may accordingly look forward to a time when all matter will be uniformly distributed as dust throughout space, a condition that, according to the nebular hypothesis, actually did prevail at one time, before the universe, as we know it, was formed.

Uncle Sam's Big Checks.

When the government pays a claim or debt it is done by a treasury warrant, signed by the secretary of the treasury. In May, 1904, the secretary signed a warrant for \$40,000,000, which was delivered to J. P. Morgan & Co. of New York as disbursing agents of this government on account of the Panama canal purchase. This was the largest sum previously covered by a single government warrant was for \$7,200,000, paid to Russia in 1893 on account of the Alaskan purchase. The next largest sum was \$5,500,000, paid in 1870 to the British government on account of the Halifax award under the treaty of Washington for infringement of fishing rights in Nova Scotia waters. In 1901 this government paid Spain, through the French ambassador, \$20,000,000 for the Philippine Islands, but this sum was represented by four warrants of \$5,000,000 each. Philadelphia Press.

Broadway Noon Idyl.

Every weekday at noon the chimes of Grace church, in New York, send down into the chatter of Broadway the strains of old familiar hymns. The other day the chimes had just finished Pleyel's hymn. They began a new melody, which in the midst of the city's roar was not at first distinguishable. Then the tangle of notes unwound itself and through the noises of the street sounded the sweet notes of "Just as I Am, Without One Plea."
Car wheels clanked, car brakes shrieked, tram shoe horse hoofs spote the stones of the street, motor horns blew raucously, there was the sound of a myriad humm' feet and of many human voices and through it all—"Just as I Am, Without One Plea."
Pedestrians took up the theme and hummed it sentimentally. Old scenes were brought back, old faiths strengthened, old memories remembered.—Christian Herald.

First English Book on Sport.

The first book on sport ever printed in the English language was a rimed treatise called the "Book of St. Albans." Its author being a woman, Dame Juliana Barnes. Its second edition was printed by Wynken de Worde in 1486. A descendant of her family, Lord Borneley, was the translator of L'Amant's "Clerk's Tale." It is true that old manuscripts existed, such as the "Verrie de Poesy" of the time of Edward II, but it was Dame Juliana who was the real ancestress of sporting literature in England, for she also prepared an essay on hawk flying and another on "Fishing With an Angler," the last being of such excellence thatzaak Walton himself did take a hint from its pages.

Parasol Monoplanes.

The parasol plane is really a bi-plane with the lower pair of wings removed, the engine, pilot and observer all sitting under the upper plane and thus giving rise to the nickname of "parasol." This type of monoplane is chiefly used for directing the fire of the guns. In an ordinary monoplane it is difficult for the observer to see below him.—Pearson's Weekly.

Fighting Fishes of Siam.

The Siamese devote great care to the cultivation of their famous fighting fishes, known as plakats. The interest in the fights, on which the spectators stake large sums of money, is so great that the license to hold them brings a large annual revenue to the king of Siam.—Westminster Gazette.

Excusable.

"Miss Short says she's only thirty, and I'd swear she's five and thirty if she's a day."
"Well, you see, I've heard she was a rather backward child, dear, and didn't learn to count till she was five."—Exchange.

Expanding.

The Old Friend—I understand that your practice is getting bigger. The Young Doctor—That's true—My patient has gained nearly two pounds in the last month.

Contempt of Court.

Defendant (in a loud voice): Justice! Justice! I demand justice! Judge: Silence! The defendant will please remember that he is in a courtroom.—Penn State Proth.

Remedy your deficiencies and your merits will take care of themselves.—Bulwer.

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