THE JOURNAL

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THE TAX COMMISSION

There semes to be a chance that a serious mistake may be made in the appointment of the new tax commission. The commission is a very important one; the gravest responsibilities will devolve upon it and it is of the highest importance that the men who compose it should command the full confidence of the people of the state both as to legal and business ability and as to personal integrity and demonstrated fidelity to public interest. This is no place for weakness or cowardice or indifference to official responsibility. If the commission cannot be constructed so as to be above reasonable criticism it were better to have no commission. There is no doubt, however, that political pressure and personal preference are being exerted to the utmost to influence the choice of these commissioners. The selection devolves upon the governor, the auditor and the attorney general and they will be held responsible for the wisdom of their choice. The Journal is free to say that, in its judgment, no commission thus far announced as a probability will, as a whole, stand the test of fair and unreasonable requirement.

While the legislature is preparing to put the corrections and charity work of the state under a board of control, partly because that seems the more business-like way of doing things, what's the matter with injecting a little more business sense into the general plan of caring for the insane by requiring those insane patients who have money or property to pay the expense of their care and treatment, or whose friends on whom they are naturally dependent and who are able to do so, to pay for their care at the hospitals for the insane? This is a perfectly reasonable proposition, is in effect in some of the states and would probably save the state more money than the change from the present plan to the board of control basis of organization.

BRITAIN ON THE TREATY

Lord Pauncefote, yesterday, delivered the answer of his government to the amended Hay-Pauncefote canal treaty, an outline of which appears in the press dispatches, the text being for the present withheld. The British government, courteous in replying and expressing a desire for an international ship canal, rejects the amendments destroying the neutrality clause in article 2, eliminating the clause inviting the other powers to adhere to the convention and abrogating the Clayton-Bulwer treaty or superseding it by the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. The intimation is made that, if the amendment in article 2, section 5, giving the United States the right to fortify the canal is modified, the other differences might be adjusted.

The reply indicates or would seem to indicate that Great Britain is willing to enter upon further negotiations. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty can no longer be under consideration as the limit of time for its ratification was March 4. Had the treaty been ratified by the senate in its original form when it was received by that body on Feb. 6, 1900, work on the canal would have been in progress some months ago. At present the Clayton-Bulwer treaty remains in force and there is no clause in it which makes it terminable except by mutual consent.

The proposition of the inflammatory chauvinist element represented by Morgan of Alabama to abrogate the treaty forcibly, will not be entertained by our government and in this position it has the backing of all who deprecate attempts to impair our national honor and due regard for international obligations. It is probable that negotiations to secure a substitute for the Clayton-Bulwer treaty will be entered upon. Men of the Morgan stamp should remember that, if the treaty were declared abrogated by congress, it would still remain an obligation upon our government unless Great Britain chooses to release it from the bond.

The Hay-Pauncefote treaty was characterized as a "British treaty" when it was sent to the senate a year ago and that cry has been kept up ever since. That treaty, however, was a purely American treaty, devised by Secretary Hay and the administration, and meant to secure the largest advantages for our country, but because Great Britain shared the obvious benefits accruing to all maritime nations who will use such a canal, our Anglophobes resolved upon amending the treaty in a way which would be sure to lead to its rejection by Britain. The amendments laid upon our government and nation the heavy responsibility of making the ship canal an instrument of war, a work designed for peaceful commerce to be turned into a mammoth fortification, bristling with the implements of war and necessitating the employment of a large military and naval force, the latter scheme being hotly advocated by the statesmen who have been most savagely denouncing the army increase embodied in the army reorganization act.

The amended treaty was obviously a disadvantage to us because of its war instrument character and because it has insured long delay in canal construction. The canal would be safer without fortifications than with them. The original treaty provided for the proper policing of the work and it is evident that, by securing the neutrality guaranty of all the maritime powers for the purpose of maintaining a great, peaceful waterway for the commerce of the world, we would enjoy distinct advantages and freedom from utterly needless responsibility. Our government would, under such circumstances, be in full control of the canal. It would be an "American canal" just as much unfortified as it would be fortified.

Rear Admiral Sampson says he didn't give out for publication the letter in which he said Gunner Morgan was a good fighter but lacked social graces and ought not, therefore, to be appointed. Mr. Sampson's statement seems quite probable.

THE RETIREMENT FUND

There is a bill before the legislature to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a teachers' retirement fund in all districts containing over 5,000 inhabitants. This is an effort to establish by state law an institution which was submitted for its adoption by the city of Minneapolis in the last proposed home rule charter. There is, however, this difference, that the pending bill makes no provision for setting apart any share of the public money for this purpose, but only authorizes boards of education to withhold one per cent of the teachers' salaries for the creation of such a fund.

It is understood that while 87½ per cent of the Minneapolis teachers favored the retirement fund proposition embodied in the last charter, and while still a larger proportion favor the general plan now, the teachers of Minneapolis would favor an amendment making the consent of the teachers necessary in each district to the establishment of such a fund. The arguments in favor of the retirement fund have been rehearsed frequently and recently in the course of the charter campaign, and what opposition may have been encountered at that time on account of the appropriation of even a moderate amount of public money to this retirement fund is disarmed at this time by the fact that no public money is to be used, the entire fund to be created out of the teachers' salaries. At the same time the teachers of Minneapolis commend this plan heartily, as they recognize in it the establishment of conditions tending to greater permanency of employment as well as a measure of insurance against want after retirement from active service. The method of collecting, caring for and distributing this fund among beneficiaries is to be determined in detail by the boards of education, who are to make rules for themselves.

The measure is also interesting in this particular, that while important for the benefits it confers upon the teachers, it is much more important because of the benefits which it confers upon the schools. It makes it possible, on the one hand, to retire teachers who have seen their best days without inflicting so much of hardship as may be suffered under present conditions, while at the same time it makes for permanency of the teaching force by increasing the inducements to good teachers to continue in their profession rather than to yield to the inducement of larger financial returns in other fields and counterbalances the inducements sometimes offered in the way of larger salaries to change from one place to another.

CUBAN RELATIONS

President McKinley has received information from Cuba from trustworthy sources that there is every reason to believe that the Cubans will accept the schedule of conditions for the evacuation of the island by our troops adopted by congress.

It is true that the noisy, radical element of the constitutional convention and the press representing it are doing their best to stir up trouble and like the troublemakers in the United States are talking about "broken American pledges." This latter babble is absurdly mendacious. The Cuban radicals and their American sympathizers have based all their threnodies about the American oppression of the Cubans upon the declaration of the resolution passed by congress on April 20, 1898, that Cuba ought to be free and independent. They close their eyes to the equally obligatory law of the land embodied in the treaty of Paris, which effected a settlement with Spain and forced her to retire from the West Indies, her last foothold in the western hemisphere.

In the treaty this nation stands pledged to establish in Cuba a stable government, capable of maintaining order and observing its international obligations. This is national law and obligation just as much as a joint resolution of congress. American journalists who indulge in baby twaddle over the Teller resolution ought to be ashamed of themselves for ignoring the other pledges which the administration is carrying out as thoroughly and accurately as possible and which contemplate the largest advantages of free and independent government in Cuba. These pledges look, indeed, to the establishment of such a stable government on the island that permanent peace may rest there and commerce and industries go on uninterruptedly. The reuirements our government has laid before the Cuban constitutional convention are the least which can be asked to secure peace and business and the proper fulfillment of our pledges and obligations. The real friend of Cuba will always heartily indorse the words of President McKinley in his last annual message:

"Whatever be the outcome, we must see to it that free Cuba be a reality, not a name, a perfect entity, not a hasty experiment, bearing within itself the elements of failure."

Justice Does Not Sleep, if the Judge Does.

The appellate court of Cook county in Illinois has just decided that the mere circumstance of the trial judge having slept four or five minutes during the hearing of a case "does not constitute reversible error." The argument used by the court is this:

If the judge was asleep, as certified, counsel must have known it, and, knowing it, should have suspended the examination of the witness then testifying until the judge awoke, or should have awakened him by calling his attention in a voice sufficiently loud to acquaint him of the fact that the trial was progressing. Counsel did neither, but proceeded with the examination, and after the judge awoke failed to call his attention to the fact that testimony had been given while he was asleep, or to object in any way. It does not appear that testimony was taken while the judge was asleep, or that there is any objection to it, or that it was in the least prejudicial to either party.

In a long and monotonous trial if the judge catches a catnap or two, nobody is hurt thereby, seems to be the conclusion of the honorable court of appeal. His honor, hereafter, will not be obliged to go to church to obtain the repose needed by the judicial mind. And if the judges on the bench may catch a nap, certainly the critics in the pews on Sunday may close an eye and listen in a semisubjective state to the exposition of the scriptures.

Justice need not sleep because the judge does.

Andrew Carnegie complains of steeples on churches that have mortgages. "I will not give a cent of my money," he says, "to any church that cannot meet its business obligations. I conduct my charitable affairs in a business way. A church which obligates itself to carry out enterprises and then fails can get no assistance from me, or sympathy either." Steeples and mortgages are expensive luxuries.

A New York man has had his stomach cut out, fixed up and put back again. The doctors called it gastroenterotomy and considered it a most interesting operation. The person who underwent the ordeal has not yet expressed his opinion of it, but he is still living.

A New York doctor told a woman's club that 22,000,000 American women are afflicted with floating kidneys because of bad corsets. What's a loose kidney or two compared with the pleasure of being neatly and expensively gowned!

The new steel trust has fixed Mr. Schwab so that he will not ask for "a raise" every Saturday night. The octopus allows him $1,000,000 a year for presiding over the trust's business.

Delaware is not represented in the senate but somehow or other the people of that state do not seem to be suffering so acutely as you might expect.

The Chicago Journal has been trying "the Missouri breakfast." It consists of a slug of whisky, a bite of tobacco and a toothpick. There is too much wood used.

Only a week or two more and the Sons of Rest will be standing on the usual corner and expectorating on the sidewalk.

When Mr. Hanna was on Wall street last Saturday a broker with a foghorn voice started "God Save the King," and Mr. Hanna fled.

Andrew Carnegie is buying more New York real estate on the northern end of Fifth avenue. Fifth avenue is getting to be a nice, quiet little street.

The Lobster club and the Odiotic Order of the Sons of Father are fully represented in Washington. They want office.

A mixture of horseradish and sour milk is said to be death on freckles. Apply externally.

Beware that absent look in the eye that means spring cleaning.

AMUSEMENTS

"Arizona" at the Metropolitan.

"Arizona" stands the test of time well. Its strength has not waned with repetition. And that is the best evidence of its merits as a drama, for the play whose success is due to merely adventitious circumstances soon falls by the wayside after the test of a season or two on the road has demonstrated its inherent weakness. "Arizona" continues to add to the fame of Augustus Thomas and to make more than ever assured his position as the leading American dramatist. He has not turned out so many plays as some of his colleagues, but the quality of his output is above reproach. From every point of view "Arizona" is an admirable composition. Its story is of vital interest and told with consummate art; the action is rapid, naturally developed and cumulative in effect; the dialogue is terse and vigorous, and touched with humor or pathos as occasion demands; the characters are drawn in sharp outline, but true to life and in contrasting colors; and that indefinable something called "atmosphere" for lack of a better term is characteristic of life in the cattle country, where the cavalry posts give it a military touch.

The managerial custom of permitting the quality of the company presenting an established success to deteriorate has happily in this case been honored in the breach. With scarcely an exception the actors and actresses appearing in the present company are not only well cast, but they give a performance quite the equal in every respect of the original production. This is high praise, even when it is taken into account that the actor who creates a role is deserving of greater credit than he who follows the established traditions of a role created by another. "Arizona" is not a mere star-play furnishing but one or two great roles; it calls rather for good actors in every one of the numerous characters it presents. One of the best of these is the old ranchman with his wild west ways and his chivalrous notions—a true knight of the mesas without a single cowardly or ungeneerous fiber in his make-up. This character is ably presented by Charles W. Stokes. A fine companion picture is that of his wife by Miss Emily Stowe, who denotes the qualities of that strong-minded but big-hearted woman with nice perception. The elder daughter, whose momentary weakness causes all the trouble, is played by Miss Cecilia Castelle, who in spite of a tendency to indistinctness of utterance and some other unpleasant mannerisms, succeeds on the whole in giving a satisfactory characterization. Miss Elsie Esmond presents a most attractive picture of the younger daughter, she of the true heart and frank, girlish ways. Her ingenuousness and candor in the love scenes with the young lieutenant and after are true to nature, nor are the little touches which make young girlhood so attractive on the stage as elsewhere overlooked. Sydney Ainsworth plays the opposite role of the wrongly accused lieutenant in manly fashion without a trace of the mawkish sentimentality which many a "leading juvenile" would find it hard to escape. William F. Clifton is the colonel and the husband, two aspects of his role which are finely differentiated and yet blended into one. Then there is the fascinating but false-hearted captain, played in excellent taste by Dustin Farnum, whose mastery over a difficult role is creditable alike to his training and his ability. The other soldiers of the cast are also well played, notably the witty but warm-hearted surgeon by Fred W. Strong and the German sergeant—so stolid until aroused—by Frank Kemble. Nor must the achievement of John Drury as the Mexican vaquero be forgotten. a stage "greaser" who is not a villain but a brave, faithful fellow, possessing nevertheless the characteristics of his race, is a decided novelty and the character does not suffer at Mr. Drury's hands. Miss Beatrice Ray as the sergeant's daughter, and Miss Jane Taylor as the school teacher, complete an admirable company. Needless to add that the stage effects and other accessories are well looked after. —W. B. C.

"King of the Opium Ring" at the Bijou.

Victorien Sardou doubtless holds a few points in dramatic subtlety over Charles E. Blaney as a maker of plays, but in the vital element of action, the American play carpenter is a close second to his French compeer. Thus it is that "King of the Opium Ring," wild and horrible melodrama though it is, has yet the saving grace of action. It moves so swiftly that it has not weariness, staleness nor flatness, although its unprofitableness might be remarked by a hypercritical observer. Having action in abundance, the "king" and his "ring" go like a burlesque performance where the company has arrived thirty minutes late on a special train. There are moments in Mr. Blaney's play when the inevitable sequence of events would induce a condition of coma in the judicous were it not that the author saw the weak spots first and patched them over with "business" that admits of no drowsiness on the part of an audience. Does the false, distorted motif need relief from its somber setting? Mr. Blaney will have a quartet of Chinamen do a song and dance, or, better still, he will invite the chief of police and an army of blue-coated inspectors to his wedding. An Irish boy and an Irishwoman will cut up and make merry, assisted by a negro minstrel, and for variety and spice he will introduce chokings, knock-downs, rescues, flights and pipe-hittings. There's no use talking, Mr. Blaney will have variety, an ingredient which he employs so effectively in his impossible melodrama that entertainment is provided for all the people.

Tremendous audiences have witnessed the presentation of "King of the Opium Ring" at the Bijou this week, and the record will doubtless be maintained throughout the engagement. The fetching title of the play, its air of mystery, its Chinese garb, its oriental suggestiveness, its novelty, all appeal to that portion of the theater-going public which likes melodramas. The play is handsomely and effectively staged, and presents some fine pictures. While dramatic license has played hob with its fidelity to truth in several spots, it retains an educational value, as it affords glimpses of Chinese life in a great American city which can be studied with profit.

The specialties which the author has provided are meritorious, and help the play out wonderfully. No awkwardness is observable in their introduction, as in a performance that aims only for the bull's-eye of sensationalism, order and sequence are not worth mentioning.

M. J. Jordan still plays Wah Sing, the bad Chinaman who would fain possess an American blonde. Mr. Jordan succeeds very well in his trying role. Ada Boshnell as the Irish widow is also a welcome addition to the cast, albeit she does not have much to do. W. F. Clark, as old Ironsides, breaks jail and rescues his daughter in a perilous manner. The Irish specialty of Miss Kate Rooney, daughter of the redoubtable Pat of glorious memory, is the hit of the show. The acrobatic performance of the Schrode brothers is excellent and was enthusiastically received by a large audience last evening. —W. A. D.

Foyer Chat.

Collamarini and the Boston Lyric Opera company began a week's engagement at the Metropolitan, St. Paul, last night in "Carmen," before a large audience, and the numerous encores and curtain calls seemed to verify the glowing eulogies of Collamarini's Carmen in the advance notices. Collamarini realizes the animal actuality of Carmen, and has a contralto voice of surprising range and power. The singing and acting of Russo, as Don Jose, were excellent. Alessandroni has a physique admirably suited to the role of Escamillo, and his rendering of the Toreador song received a double encore. Bertha Davis in the part of Michaela was very pleasing. The chorus developed unexpected singing power in certain passages, notably in the chorus of the Toreador song.

Refined minstrelsy as presented by Wm. H. West's extraordinary gathering of burnt cork celebrities bids fair to occupy a more dignified place in the field of amusement this season than ever before. Mr. West has provided an entertainment replete with fun, novelty and melody, and has organized a company of talent. Among the artists who will appear in the first part are Billy Van, Ernest Tenney, Raymond Teal and Charles Wilson in the comedy line, and the vocal corps will include Richard J. Jose, the phenomenal contratenor, Manuel Romain, John P. Rodgers, William Hallett and others. The olio includes Waterbury Bros. and Tenney, musical artists, the marvelous Rio Brothers, the De Elmer Trio and Billy Van in an entirely new monologue. The street parade this season is said to be very spectacular.

New York Daily Letter.

BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL, No. 21 Park Row.

Prices of Diamonds.

March 12.—Diamond dealers believe the current year will show enormous increases in their business. Already the importation of precious stones are mounting at a wonderful rate. During the month of February cut stones to the value of $1,171,313.60, and rough stones valued at $604,760.14 passed into this port through the custom-house. Two weeks ago the price of diamonds was considerably raised, a previous raise having gone into effect last fall; yet the business is increasing heavily, and the dealers in diamonds take this demand as revealing unerringly the general prosperity and good financial condition of the country. On this basis the local dealers, wholesale and retail, as well as the importers, are preparing for the most prosperous year of their existence. To-day a London syndicate controls the diamond trade of the world and it is kept busy to meet all demands. Dealers declare they have practically been on their knees to get enough diamonds from this syndicate to keep going. Our diamond merchants say that while prices have been advanced, the final buyer pays little more than formerly, as the wholesalers and retailers are the real sufferers. The price of all jewelry is going up in sympathy with the price of diamonds.

The Shopping District.

When a man desiring to stroll about New York city on a weekday goes into West Twenty-third street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, trouble is apt to follow. This is the heart of the shopping district, and such sidewalk space as is not taken up by women on shopping tours or by their trains is occupied by fakirs, vendors and medicants who manage to make themselves extremely obnoxious. On a recent afternoon a gentleman and citizen ran the gauntlet at this point. When he came out he looked as though he had been through a prize fight. The first thing when he entered the riot section he fell over a Maid of Athens peddling flowers; then he collided with three daughters of sunny Italy selling laces; narrowly escaped having his eye knocked out by a fiend who blew something like a snake at him; was startled by a man who inflated a huge rubber pig and wiggled it before his eyes; was handed a beautiful collection of language because he inadvertently kicked over a basket of oranges that he could not see until he stepped on it, and finally ruined his overcoat and temper by stepping on a minature locomotive running about on the sidewalk to the supreme delight of a small boy and the fakir engaged in selling the top.

A Death Trap.

One of the greatest death traps is the subway running under the cable slots between the tracks of the Metropolitan Street Railway company. The cable system is confined to the line on Broadway and its branches on Lexington and Columbus Avenues. Under the cable, throughout the length of the line runs a subway so workmen may be able to readily get at the strand for repair work. Since this system has been in use a great many deaths have been caused by the difficult manner in which the workmen are obliged to perform their labors. As the cable runs along the grip from the bottom of the car catches it and the car runs with a speed equal to that of the cable. The workmen in the subway are obliged to assume a crouching position, their heads level with the rapidly moving strand. As each car passes they are obliged to lower their heads into almost impossible positions, for the sharp edge of the grip which is clutched to the cable would otherwise strike them, and, as has happened upon several occasions, cleanly slice off the tops of their heads. Such an accident has just occurred on the Lexington avenue branch.

A Philosophic Trip.

Howard Gould is about to start on a yachting trip of an interesting sort. It will be a photographic tour of three months duration, in which Mr. Gould, Mrs. Gould and a party of friends will cruise about in the Carribean sea, and possibly go as far south as Cape Horn. His beautiful yacht, the Niagara, will carry the party, all of the members of which are ambitious amateur photographers. To further their purposes, a portion of the yacht has been refitted to resemble a huge photographic studio with many dark rooms and developing apartments. Thousands of pictures are to be taken and as many plates as possible will be developed during the voyage. —N. N. A.

Entitled to the Applause.

New York World.

Senator Hanna, smiling and bowing in acknoledgement of the cheers that were given for the president along the line of the procession, was one of the piquant features of the day.

Especially the Smacks.

Omaha Nwes.

It is a relief to think that Admiral Sampson will be unable to object to the promotion of Lieutenant Richmond Pearson Hobson on the ground of social unfitness. And the lieutenant besides is qualified to command anything, from a fleet of smacks to a battleship.

The Way to Begin.

New York Herald.

The Hay-Pauncefote treaty died with congress. No mourners. Now let the first bill introduced at the next session of congress be one for the construction of an American canal, owned, operated and defended by the American government.

Good Brand of Insanity.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The report of De Wet's insanity recalls the story of Abraham Lincoln and his wish to supply the other genrals with the same brand of whisky that Grant "got drunk" on.

SUPPER FOR FOUR

BY GEORGE M. BRISBANE.

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When I went to spend the summer with Aunt Mary on her Pennsylvania farm I was 13 years old and big for my age. The place was lonely enough, the nearest neighbor a mile away, and our only companions the hired man and the hired girl.

My uncle had died but a few weeks before I reached the farm, and, shortly afterward, an agent for the company in which his life was insured called to settle up with the widow. He paid over the sum of $3,000 in cash, and one of the witnesses to the receipt was a peddler, who, according to the custom in this section of the country, had traded goods for a dinner at Aunt Mary's well-spread table. That very morning it happened that my aunt had received another thousand dollars in payment of a piece of land, and at the table she carelessly referred to the matter, and jokingly remarked that in these times, when banks were tumbling down like card houses, she guessed it was safer to bury one's money in a cellar than to trust to banks—at least until one could find a better investment.

Just the same, at an early hour next morning she was driving to town, ten miles east, and her four thousand dollars were snugly deposited in the bank where she and her husband had done business ever since they moved to Pennsylvania.

And nobody gave another thought to the peddler.

One night, about a week or ten days after the above incident, the hired help took Aunt Mary's best rig and drove off to a merry-making several miles away. It had been a long, tiresome day, and both Aunt Mary and I were ready to retire when 9 o'clock struck. Our rooms were on the second floor, and before going upstairs we saw that the kitchen door was on the latch and the house safe from fire. Ten minutes after getting into bed I was sound asleep, and it was two hours later when a rough hand pulled me out of bed and a gruff voice said:

"Out of this boy, and come along with me."

The man standing before me had a candle in his hand and a mask of black cloth over his face. I was at first inclined to believe that Joe, the hired man, was playing a trick on me, but I soon saw by the man's height and build that he was a stranger. When I had pulled on my clothes I followed him down stairs to the sitting-room, used also as the dining-room. There I found a second masked man sitting astride a chair and coolly smoking a cigar, while Aunt Mary, pale-faced and frightened, sat not far away. The men had entered the house by way of the unlocked kitchen door, and they seemed to know that only the two of us were in the house.

"Now, then, old gal," said the smoker, as I was brought down, "the first thing on the program is a mightly good supper. I am as hungry as a wolf, and I don't want no picked-up affair. Just lay yourself out for a spread."

"What—what are you here for!" stammered my aunt, as she looked from one to the other.

"Oh, we just thought we'd make an evening call, you know," laughed the man, and his partner laughed with him. "We are ol l friends, and we expect to be welcomed. Mebbe we have come on a particular errand, but there's time enough to talk about that. Come, old gal, get a move on you."

"And you, mind," added the second, pointing a finger at us, "no tricks. If you try any on us it'll be a knife across your gullets in no time. Yes, we want a good supper, and while you are about it, cook enough for four. It'll seem more homelike if you eat with us."

"If you have come to rob the house," said Aunt Mary as she arose, "let me tell you there's no money here. It all went to the bank in Fishkill ten days ago."

"That's a lie!" exclaimed the one who had brought me downstairs, "but we'll talk of that after supper. We don't want no more words about it now."

As Aunt Mary set about getting supper the door leading into the sitting-room was left open so they could watch her. I cut the meat for her to fry, helped peel the potatoes and ground the coffee, and though we were right under the eyes of the two men we exchanged a few words now and then. Neither of us was greatly frightened. I told her to be as long as she could over the supper, so as to give the hired folks a chance to get home. As I set the table for the four of us, one man growled at the other:

"If you've fooled me over this job I shall be a bit rusty, and you'd better look out for yourself."

"Wasn't I here when the money was paid in?" demanded his companion.

"Mebbe you was, but what about the bank?"

"That's all rot. She's got it buried down cellar."

"Well, I'm a bad man when I'm disappointed. If the money has been carted off to the bank you'd better never have met me."

It was about midnight when supper was ready and we sat down. While waiting the men had smoked and passed a bottle, and both were in ugly mood as they drew up. Aunt Mary took her accustomed place and poured the coffee, and I could see that she was hoping and listening for the return of the hired folks. There was little conversation during the meal. Up to this time the men had been careful to keep their faces hidden, but finding that the masks interfered with their eating, and the liquor having made them a bit reckless, they threw the disguises aside. One was the peddler who witnessed the receipt. The other was a vicious looking man, who looked like a hanger-on about a village tavern. The fellows ate ravenously, and it was three-quarters of an hour before their appetites were satisfied. Then the peddler sprawled his elbows on the table, and, looking across at my aunt, observed:

"We have come for them $4,000, and if you'll bring up the stuff we'll be going."

"And just let me say," added the other, "that we don't want no squealing or squawking over it."

"I told you at first that it had gone to the bank," replied my aunt. "I can show you my bank book to prove it."

The book was behind the looking glass in the same room. She got it and handed it to the leader. He looked at the date and the figures and saw that she had spoken truly. Turning on the peddler, he growled:

"What sort of a trick is this to play on a man!"

"I've played no trick," protested the other. "I tell you the money is buried in the cellar, and she's trying to fool us. Blast her eyes, but a knife at her throat will bring the boodie fast enough."

"Can't you read?" shouted the leader as he thrust the book under the other's eyes. "Don't that say the 10th of the month, and isn't the $4,000 down there? Say, you've led me into a trap, you have. You've got constables lying around here to nab me, but before they lay hands on me I'll put my mark on you!"

Like a flash both men were on their feet. The peddler drew an ugly looking knife, but the big fellow knocked it across the room. His great fist closed around the peddler's throat and he dragged his victim out into the night.

"There'll be murder done before this is over!" sobbed my aunt.

From without came a string of oaths, such as I have never heard before or since. Next came a strange, splashing sound; and a heavy body semed to strike against the house. Then silence.

"He's brained him against my very door!" shrieked my aunt, sinking to the floor in a swoon. My curiosity got the better of my discretion, and I hurried out on the porch. A wagon was swaying and jerking down the lane. The murderer had fled.

I looked round for a lifeless body, but the porch was unoccupied. Suddenly my attention was attracted to the far corner of the porch by a peculiar sound like the clicking of bootheels. From a rain barrel, which had been placed under the waterspout, issued a pair of long legs, kicking convulsively, but futilely.

The barrel was narrow, deep and almost full of water. Either the peddler or his confederate had been chucked head first into the water. The kicking became weaker. There was a convulsive jerk and two feet dropped limp against the rim of the barrel.

Then I recovered my senses, and grabbing hold of the projecting heels, I shouted at the top of my voice:

"He's drowning! Quick auntie!"

My aunt staggered to the door, and grasping the situation at a glance, pulled herself together. In a few seconds we had pulled the fellow from the barrel, and dragged him, wet and silent, into the kitchen.

When the help arrived half an hour later we had pumped the water out of our prisoner and he lay, shivering and dazed, on the floor before the kitchen fire. The hired man then took him in charge, my aunt mercifully insisting that he should be rolled up in blankets and plied with whisky before he was bound and locked in the tiny spare room. The next morning he was carried to the county jail, the victim of misplaced confidence and a rain-barrel.

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PAPERS BY EXPERTS AND SPECIALISTS OF NATIONAL REPUTATION.

COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS OF TO-DAY.

(Series under the supervision of Prof. John H. Finley of Princeton University.)

IV.—ZANZIBAR, A WARD OF COURT

(By Walter Hodgson, M. A., of Keble College, Oxford.

Though not a colony in the proper sense of the term, and not, therefore, standing in the relation of a daughter to the mother country, the dominions of Hamud bin Mahamed bin Said, Sultan of Zanzibar, may be regarded rather as a ward of court, since in November, 1890, consequent upon the partition of eastern Africa among Great Britain, Germany and Portugal, England established throughout that rich and important territory a protectorate, which extends over the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, as well as some few small islands adjacent, together with a narrow ten-mile strip of the mainland about twenty miles westward across the Indian ocean.

The island of Zanzibar itself, having an area of 640 square miles and containing a population of 90,000, is inhabited for the most part by Arabs, and in a still greater number by Swahilis, the natives of the soil. There are about fifty Englishmen, a like number of Germans, a still smaller number of Americans, Frenchmen and Italians, represented by consuls of their own, and a few Greeks and Roumanians, who are content to leave their interests in the hands of the British consulate. There are about 7,000 British subjects, mostly Indian, through whose hands passes the whole of the retail and most of the wholesale trade, both of the island and of eastern Africa. The grandees are all Arabs, but the merchants, great and small, are Indian, and, like the Arabs, Mohammedan, with the exception of some heathen Banyans. But among the lower orders are Persians, Egyptians and Soanese, representatives of every African and many Asiatic races.

LANDING BEACH, ZANZIBAR.

The Trade Center of East Africa.

Zanzibar suggests cloves—and slaves. Slave labor is still to a great extent, and until recently was wholly, employed on the clove plantations, the product of which constitutes the principal export to India, Great Britain, the United States and elsewhere; but there are very large exports also of ivory, petroleum, rubber and copal. The principal imports are cotton stuffs from England, oil from America and rice from India. Prosperous as was the import and export trade in 1898, the returns for 1899 show a marked advance. The total value of all articles imported into Zanzibar in that year amounted to £1,596,606, an increase of £41,536 over the preceding year, while the total exports for the same period reached a sum of £1,513,407, exceeding by nearly £16,000 those of the year before.

Zanzibar is thus by far the most flourishing and important town in eastern Africa. It is a great trade center for Africa, India and Arabia. As seen from the sea, it resembles a closely packed town, built down to the water's edge, "with stately buildings of dazzling whiteness standing out clear and sharp against the deep blue sky, while waving palms and vivid green bushes, smooth blue sea and red shore are aglow in the rich warmth of atmosphere that knows no smoke or fog." Conspicuous among its chief buildings are the sultan's palace, rebuilt after the bombardment of 1896, on the occasion of the short-lived usurpation of Khalid; the various consulates, the French hospital, the hospital of the English universities' mission and their cathedral church, which stands upon the site of the old slave market, the holy table being erected on the very spot where formerly stood the shameful whipping post. There is a magnificent harbor where ships of all nations ride at anchor among the numerous dhows.

Influence of Sir John Kirk.

After several centuries of quasi-Arab rule, Zanzibar in the beginning of the sixteenth century came under the dominion of the Portuguese. Later on the Arabs reasserted their independence, and the islands remained in the possession of various Arab chiefs till the end of the eighteenth century, when the imam of Muskat proclaimed and maintained his sovereignty over Zanzibar and Pemba and the neighboring coast. In 1841 the East India company first established relations with the ruler of Zanzibar, who had assumed the title of sayd, or lord, of the island, and successive British representatives were appointed to the court of Zanzibar, until in 1873 Sir John Kirk, who had been appointed vice consul in 1866 and subsequently consul, received his formal appointment to the post of consul general, and later on attained the further office of political agent. There is no other man living, says Sir Harry Johnston, who has so profoundly influenced the condition of eastern Africa as Sir John Kirk. Born of an old Scotch family and educated for a doctor, he served as such with the British army in the Crimean war, but his own taste and aptitude were for natural history. In 1858 he accepted the post of naturalist to Livingstone's expedition to the Zambesi, the exigencies of which, however, forced him to lay aside the naturalist to become the second in command, in which capacity, when others failed, Livingstone found him a mainstay in several critical emergencies.

When he first arrived in the island in 1866, the sovereignty of the sultan was most precarious. The standing army was composed of a few miserable, ill-clothed, unpaid, cowardly mercenaries. Slaves were sold in the open market. Upon the death of the reigning sultan, Sir John Kirk sedulously cultivated the friendship and confidence of his successor, Seyd Barghash, with the result that at the end of two years of personal intercourse he was able to obtain as a concession to friendship what Sir Bartle Frere, in spite of his personal prestige and position, backed by a fleet of ironclads, had failed to extort even under the threat of bombardment—namely, Seyd's signature to a treaty for the suppression of the East African slave trade.

How Zanzibar Is Ruled.

In October, 1891, a regular government was formed for Zanzibar, with General Lloyd Matthews, K. C. M. G., as prime minister. In February, 1892, it was declared a free port, but the importation of spirits, arms, powder and mineral oils is still under strict regulation. Prior to that time the revenues of the sultan were almost entirely derived from customs dues and taxes upon produce, chiefly cloves. But under the new arrangement the sultan's privy purse, which is kept wholly distinct from the general revenues of the country, is fixed at 120,000 rupees annually, while the remainder of the revenue is devoted to charges for the internal administration of the state. However, no expenditure can be incurred without the sanction both of the sultan and the British agent and consul general. The other chief officials are a consul, two vice-consuls and a board of agriculture. There is also a regular native army of about 900 men, including police, under the command of a British general.

Justice among the sultan's native subjects is administered by cadis, or legal magistrates, but by a decree of 1892 the sultan made over to the British agent and consul general his right to try all cases in which the accuser was a British subject and the accused a native of Zanzibar, or the subject of a non-Christian state without a treaty. Almost all causes are now tried before the British court, from which an appeal lies to the high court of Bombay.

Suppressing the Slave Trade.

But the greatest achievement of Great Britain, conceived long before the protectorate and matured through many years of hard struggle in the face of indigenous customs, has been the abolition of legal traffic in slaves from Zanzibar and Eastern Africa.

From time immemorial slaves were taken from Central Africa to the Mediterranean states, to Egypt and Asia, and until near the end of the eighteenth century most people had thought slavery a proper institution. In 1794 an act of the United States was passed forbidding slave trade to any foreign country. In 1807 an act of the British parliament made the trade illegal for British subjects, and a law of the United States forbade the importation of slaves into the union. The first steps taken by Great Britain against the slave trade on the east coast of Africa were in 1822, when an engagement was obtained from the imam of Muskat and confirmd by him in 1839, by which he promised to prohibit and prevent the sale of slaves to any Christian nation and to allow British ships to seize all vessels found within certain limits loaded with slaves. In 1845 it was further agreed with the imam that the export of slaves from his African dominions, or from Africa into his Asiatic possessions, should be prohibited under severest penalties. In 1872 Seyd Barghash, yielding to the representations of Sir John Kirk, ratified a treaty renouncing the transport of slaves by sea and closing all public slave markets in his domains. In 1876 he issued further decrees prohibiting the fitting out of slave caravans and the bringing of slaves to the coast or transporting them by land, and freeing all slaves held in certain ports. Subsequent decrees were obtained from the Sultan Khalifa in 1889 and 1890, all tending to the further emancipation of slaves, until at last, in 1897, the present sultan agreed to publish a decree abolishing entirely the status of slavery in the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba. This means, in the words of the then British under secretary for foreign affairs—now Lord Curzon, viceroy of India—"that every slave is at liberty to go before a court, established for that purpose, and to claim his freedom. All he has to do is to go before that court, prove his identity, claim the liberty to which he is entitled and receive the papers which register the fact. No court can, from the passing of that decree, enforce any claims upon him by his former master." In the first eighteen months 8,000 slaves, male and female, claimed their liberty. The freeing of slaves is now proceeding, slowly but surely, at the rate of about 2,000 a year.

Work of the Universities' Mission.

It was in 1857 that Livingstone, while on a visit to England made his now historic appeal to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge to carry the gospel of Christ to the heathen races of Central Africa. "I go back to Africa," was his simple yet eloquent story, "to try to make an open path for commerce and Christianity. Do you carry out the work which I have begun. I leave it to you."

Half a century has passed and the response to that appeal is seen in Zanzibar and on the shores of Lake Nyassa, in a growing native church, wisely planted and carefully nurtured by the Universalists' mission to Central Africa, to whose good work successive agents-general have borne ungrudging testimony. While the first aim of the mission is to build up a native ministry, who