

GOT HIS DISCHARGE.

THINGS CAME JUST RIGHT FOR THE NAVAL MACHINIST.

An incident of a Three Years' Cruise on the Vermont Which Goes to Show How Small, After All, This Great World of Ours Really Is.

Several years ago a quiet young chap shipped as a machinist in the navy aboard the receiving ship Vermont at the Brooklyn navy yard. He gave San Francisco as his place of nativity. He was assigned to a cruiser about to start for the China station by the Suez canal route. He was a crack mechanic and very soon showed the engineers that he knew how to earn his rate and wages. He never said much about himself. He wasn't anything of what is called a "man-o-war chaw," and, although he had been up and down the world a good deal, he let others do the talking. He was perhaps the quietest man in the American navy at the time he served.

His ship got to the Asiatic station all right and cruised back and forth there between China and Japan for close on to three years. Then she was ordered back to the United States. She had a lot of "overtime" men aboard of her by that time, sailors whose time had expired, but who preferred to wait until they reached the United States before they took their discharges. When the ship was ordered back home, a lot of overtime men from other ships on the Asiatic station were sent to her to be brought back to this country.

This machinist—call him Beall—had just 21 days left of his three year enlistment when the ship left Yokohama for San Francisco via the Hawaiian Islands. All of the overtime men were talking about their trip around from San Francisco to New York by passenger steamer. They had all shipped at the Brooklyn navy yard, and the navy always sends men to the point whence it takes them when they enlist unless they "waive transportation" for the purpose of stopping off at an intermediary point.

It took the ship 14 days to "fetch up" Honolulu from Yokohama, and then Beall, the machinist, had five days yet to serve.

"Are you going to waive transportation and drop off at San Francisco, or are you going around to New York with us?" the men asked him when the ship pulled into Honolulu.

"Don't know yet," the machinist replied.

After coaling at Honolulu—which took four days, done leisurely—the skipper of the ship decided to take a bit of a run around the Hawaiian Islands before up anchoring for San Francisco. Beall's time expired on the morning that his ship was headed for Lahaina, on the island of Maui, a little sail of about 85 miles from Honolulu. The ship dropped her anchor within about 300 yards of the Lahaina beach along toward 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The island of Maui is very beautiful to look upon—a veritable gem of the ocean, if such a one was ever fashioned by the hand of the creator. Beall, the machinist, was off watch and standing on the to'gallant fo'c'sle, smoking his pipe, when the ship cast her anchor off Lahaina. There was some longing in his quiet gray eyes. He knocked the ashes out of his pipe, stretched his arms and then walked down to the mainmast and told the officer of the deck that he wanted to see the commanding officer. The commanding officer came out of his cabin.

"What is it, my man?" he asked the machinist.

"My time is out, sir," said the machinist. "I guess I'll take my discharge here."

The commanding officer looked surprised.

"This is rather a queer notion," he said. "You shipped in New York, did you not? I should think you would want to get back to the United States after your three years on the China station. Or, at any rate, that you would prefer to wait until we get back to Honolulu, if you want to waive transportation and take your discharge down here among the islands. Why do you want your discharge today and here?"

The machinist smiled as he replied:

"Because this island here, Maui, is my home. At this moment my father and mother and seven brothers and sisters are on this island. They are at a place not very far from Lahaina, called Spreckelsville. The girl that I am going to marry is also there. I was born in Frisco, but my father came down to this island as engineer of a sugar plantation when I was 2 years old. None of them know that I am within just a few miles of home now. I want to give them a little surprise. I waive transportation, and I'll take my discharge now."

The commanding officer listened to the recital with interest.

"Of course we'll give you your discharge, son," he said, "although I'm sorry to lose you, and I had hoped you might ship over. Close mouthed men are wanted in the navy. You owe us some thanks, I think, for starting you off at New York, taking you around the world for three years and then fetching you up within an hour or so of your home on the very day your time is out. To all intents and purposes, we have been a yacht for you."

It was rather a remarkable happening for a fact. The machinist packed his things and went over the side, amid the pleasant salutations of the men, about two hours later, with his bag and hammock and a couple of thousand dollars in gold, his savings during the cruise. A couple of hours later he was with his people and his sweetheart in Spreckelsville. It is a small world.—Washington Star.

CHICAGO'S BIG FROLIC.

The Fall Festival, Beginning October 4, Will Be a Nine Days' Carnival—Many Notables Expected to Attend.

By John F. Willoughby.



DESIGN FOR DECORATING STATE STREET.

Chicago is preparing for nine days of carnival. The event is to be known as the fall festival. It is to begin on Oct. 4 and if the present plans are carried out will be a record breaker.

There are several reasons given for indulging in this big municipal frolic. In the first place, it will serve to mark the close of a season of unexampled prosperity in the commercial interests of the city; in the second place, the cornerstone of the new Chicago post-office is to be laid, and, thirdly, the return of Admiral Dewey, who, it is expected, will be induced to visit Chicago during the festival, makes the occasion worthy of much rejoicing.

The committee in charge of the affair is raising a fund of \$150,000, two-thirds of which has already been subscribed. Of this sum \$18,000 has been set aside for the purpose of illuminating the city for two nights. The illumination will be thoroughly done, as you may guess from the generous sum appropriated to this feature.

Chicago does not propose to have her fun all by herself. Invitations are to be sent out to more than 25,000 "eminent Americans." If you don't get one, you should write to the committee. Some notables are bound to be overlooked in arranging for an affair of this kind.

President McKinley and his cabinet have been included, of course. The president is down on the programme for the cornerstone laying. Every effort will be made to induce the chief executive to take along with him from Washington Admiral Dewey.

President Diaz of Mexico is another distinguished personage who is expected to be present. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and staff are to be invited also. The heads of all United States government departments, the governor of each state and the mayors of all prominent cities are among the invited guests. It is also hoped that something like 1,000,000 plain American citizens, with money enough to pay their own hotel bills, will take in the show, patronize the Chicago merchants and help swell the crowd.

The festival programme is an imposing one. It is as follows:

- Oct. 4.—Opening of the festival in the evening with grand illumination of the city and fireworks display.
- Oct. 5.—Band concerts in all the parks. Historical parade and parade of nations in the evening.
- Oct. 6.—Reception to honored guests, naval and military heroes of the war, governors, United States officials. Grand choral festival of song in the new Coliseum building on Wabash avenue. Illuminated bicycle parade in the evening, 50,000 wheelmen participating.
- Oct. 7.—Arrival of President McKinley and cabinet and Admiral Dewey. Review and drill of Illinois regiments and band concerts in the parks. Grand industrial parade, which will probably be reviewed by the president.
- Oct. 8.—Religious festival services in all the churches. Great religious mass meetings at the Auditorium. Sacred concerts in all of the parks.
- Oct. 9.—Laying of the cornerstone of the new postoffice by President McKinley. Great military and civic parade. Banquet to the president and cabinet at the Auditorium.
- Oct. 10.—Public reception to President McKinley. Grand ball and fireworks display.

Incidental to this programme is to be the illumination of State street, the Marquette club banquet on the night of Oct. 7 at the Auditorium, the presence in the city of a band of Sioux Indians, 250 in number, and other attractions of a nature calculated to keep the visitor and sightseer busy.

The Chicago committee appointed to visit President Diaz and formally invite him to visit Chicago during the festival was delightfully received by him and assured that the president of Mexico would gladly visit Chicago in October if his congress gave permission to him to come. The Mexican congress convenes Sept. 15, and at that time President Diaz will ask for permission to visit Chicago. The belief is strong that permission will be granted him to come.

Another special committee has been sent to Canada to present an invitation

to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. A third committee has just been appointed to carry to President McKinley the formal invitation for him to be present, although it is privately known that he will accept. There is a possibility that King Leopold, who is expected to be the guest of Mrs. Potter Palmer at Newport at an early date, may be induced to journey westward and be one of the honored guests of the festival occasion.

There will be two great banquets during the festival, banquets fully as notable as those during the jubilee of last year when speeches now famous as part of the history of the country were made. The Marquette club, one of the foremost political organizations of the city, will hold its banquet on the night of Oct. 7 at the Auditorium. The arrangements are to be such that spectators will probably be admitted to the hall to view the notables at the tables and hear the speeches.

It is expected that the principal speakers will be President McKinley, Secretary Gage, Secretary Root, Secretary Long, Senator Fairbanks of Indiana and Archbishop Ireland of Minnesota.

The other banquet of the period will be that following the laying of the cornerstone of the new postoffice. This banquet is to be given by the fall festival officials and the committees conducting the cornerstone exercises.

The two banquets will be supplemented on the last night of the festival with a grand ball, to which all of the guests of the occasion will be invited. This ball will be on the night of Oct. 10 at the Auditorium.

The pyrotechnical displays of Chicago have already attained fame throughout the northwest, but it is promised that all past efforts will be surpassed by those of this year.

State street is to be the central point from which the illumination features will radiate. It has been decided that the street shall be decorated from Van Buren street to Lake, literally covered with electrical designs, bunting, flags, show window ornaments, festoons of light, two great arches, symbolic columns and the like.

The parades are to be out of the stereotyped order. The historical parade and parade of nations of the night of Oct. 5 is to be a costume affair, in which representatives of every civilized nation on the globe will take part. The line of march will be through the illuminated portions of the city, and it is expected that 10,000 characters will take part.

More unusual than this, though, will probably be the bicycle parade. If the plans of the committee having charge of it are carried out, the committee has made a statement that with good weather it will have 50,000 wheelmen in line. So far as possible the wheels will be illuminated and the riders in fanciful costumes.

The union of the ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of the new postoffice and those of the fall festival was a happy thought. The cornerstone will be laid on the anniversary of the destruction of Chicago by the great fire of 1871—Oct. 9.

Afterward there will be a military parade, participated in by veterans of the Spanish-American war and all of the military organizations of the city and the state.

But all of the proceedings of the fall festival are not to be of the merry-making kind. The well known Bishop Fallows has been authorized to arrange for religious exercises of the most solemn character. He has already so perfected his plans that some of the most noted divines of the country will take part in these exercises.

Plans are partially under way also for the holding of a great religious congress, undenominational in character, during the festival.

AUTHOR OF RICHARD CARVEL

Story of the Young Man Who Has Written the Book of the Year.

BY SEWELL FORD.

A young man of 27 who has written what may be called "the book of the year" is certainly a personage of public interest. Such is Winston Churchill, author of "Richard Carvel."

The writer of this truly American novel which is being so widely read and talked about is new to literature. He has produced but one previous book and that of rather a light nature. But "Richard Carvel" has boosted him well up among the popular native novelists, and his fortune, if not his lasting fame, is already assured.

Mr. Churchill comes of old Puritan stock. He is descended on his father's side from John Churchill, who settled at Plymouth, Mass., in 1641, and on his mother's side both from John Dwight, the founder of Dedham, Mass., and from Jonathan Edwards. Thus he is derived from good English stock long resident upon the soil, and this good blood has, moreover, proved sensitive to the fluid influences of American life. The original families scattered, of course, and Mr. Churchill's immediate relatives found their way to St. Louis, where he was born in 1871.

From Smith academy in that city he went to the Naval academy at Annapolis. Before his graduation he had made up his mind that he did not want to spend his life in the navy, that his abilities lay in the line of writing and that fiction was his vocation.

After working on The Army and Navy Journal he joined the staff of The Cosmopolitan and lived at Irvington-on-the-Hudson, working steadily on the magazine, but not continuing his experiments in fiction. He never tried to get any of his first work published, and it is not now in existence, so that he is in the rare position of a novelist who has scored a great success without having any early sins to rise up and accuse him.

While he was living at Irvington he married a wealthy young lady from



WINSTON CHURCHILL

his native city. He was no longer obliged to spend his life doing hack work, but he united with his rare good fortune much rarer good sense. He was ambitious not only to write good stories, but to write the very best books of which he was capable—to do something really worth while.

While he was living in St. Louis, after leaving The Cosmopolitan, he hired a room in an office building and went down to it and ground away as regularly as if he had had a set of books to keep instead of a novel to write. He went to Virginia and Maryland and studied up the country and the old records with great thoroughness, and he also read a vast amount of history and other literature which gave the spirit of the period, both before he began "Richard Carvel" and while it was on the stocks.

Last winter, from October to April, when he was writing the book from beginning to end for the fifth time, he was living on the Hudson about 30 miles from New York. During those months he went to the city only five times. He worked from breakfast to 1 o'clock, then for some hours after luncheon. Late in the afternoon he took a long horseback ride, and after dinner he went at his work again, keeping it up until very late.

After finishing his work in connection with "Richard Carvel" last spring Mr. Churchill, with his wife and child, went up to the beautiful little village of Cornish, N. H., where he had purchased a large farm on high ground on the banks of the Connecticut, just opposite Windsor, Vt. The estate lies in a beautiful situation, partly surrounded by mountains.

There he is now at work on another novel. He has built for himself a little writing den, not in the attic or in some remote corner of the house, but out in the fields. Into this he retires at regular intervals and grinds away. He says he does not intend to be hurried in his work and means to take just as much pains with this book as with his first successful novel.

Mr. Churchill is a tall, athletic looking young man of 27, with very broad shoulders, black hair and brown eyes; alive to his finger tips and manly through and through, with neither false pride nor false modesty, but with a certain grace and a delicacy of perception of which one gradually becomes aware. He is frank, genuine, companionable and straightforward.

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