

FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

The Heron.

The heron is one of the handsomest and largest of British birds and was once very numerous in the country, but since the fens and other similar swampy districts have been drained it has become less common. In districts which offer a supply of suitable food and an undisturbed retreat the heron may still be found in small numbers. Even in the neighborhood of London one may now and again be seen wending its way to some secluded spot where it may feed in security. When flying, the bird is easily known by those with good eyesight, as the long bill and legs project in a straight line



A HERONY.

from between the large waving wings which carry it swiftly along. Not more than two or three herons are generally seen together except in the breeding season, when many assemble and build their large untidy nests close to one another on the tops of some high trees, forming what is known as a herony. There are many of these scattered through the country to which the birds resort yearly.—Chatterbox.

Modest Bravery.

There is a fascination about a modest brave man that appeals strongly to all of us who like brave deeds and brave doers. The man who does a courageous thing and tells about it afterward deserves and secures our applause, no doubt, but the one who does not know that he has done anything extraordinary makes us feel like shaking his hand very hard indeed. An exchange tells of a brave Frenchman who is of this class. A reporter for a Paris paper encountered him in a little village in the south of France. He was a gardener, but wore, pinned on his clean Sunday blouse, the ribbon of the Legion of Honor. Naturally the newspaper man desired to know how he got it. The gardener, who, like many of his trade, seemed to be a silent man, was averse to meeting an old and wearisome demand, but said:

"Oh, I don't know how I did get it! I was at Bazelles with the rest of the battery. All the officers were killed; then down went all the noncommissioned officers. Bang, bang, bang! By and by all the soldiers were down but me. I had fired the last shot and naturally was doing what I could to stand off the Bavarians. Well, a general came, and says he:
"Where's your officers?"
"All down," says I.
"Where's your gunners?" says he.
"All down but one," says I.
"And you've been fighting here all alone?" says he.
"I couldn't let 'em come and get the guns, could I? I says, and then he up and put this ribbon on me, probably because there was nobody else there to put it on."

Elephantine Mischief.

Five of the elephants attached to the circus of Lord George Sanger escaped from the large tent in which they had been hobbled for the night at Dartford, England. They were found devouring the contents of a baker's shop, having smashed a large plate glass window in the shopfront and eaten all the bread and pastry they could find and then beginning to destroy some bags of flour.

Four of the elephants—Charlie, Edgar, H. R. H. and Mary—were escorted back to the tent, but Minnie could not be found anywhere.

She subsequently was discovered a mile and a half away quietly sleeping near a conservatory in a market garden. She had amused herself by smashing the windows of the conservatory, destroying a quantity of valuable flowers and eating a big lot of vegetables.

A King.

We talked of kings, little Ned and I,
As we sat in the firelight's glow;
Of Alfred the Great, in days gone by,
And his kingdom of long ago.

Of Norman William, who, brave and stern,
His armies to victory led,
Then, after a pause, "At school we learn
Of another great man," said Ned.

"And this one was good to the oppressed,
He was gentle and brave, and so
Wasn't he greater than all the rest?
"Twas Abraham Lincoln, yea know."

"Was Lincoln a king?" I asked him then,
And in waiting for his reply,
A long procession of noble men
Seemed to pass in the firelight by.

When "No" came slowly from little Ned,
And thoughtfully, then, with a start,
"He wasn't a king—outside," he said,
"But I think he was in his heart."
—Ella Matthews Bangs in St. Nicholas.

Youngest Officer in the World.

Without doubt the youngest officer in the world is the son of the Turkish consul general in Taurus, Persia. He is only 2½ years old. A short time ago the wife of the Turkish plenipotentiary obtained an audience with the crown princess of Persia and, as is the custom of the country, brought along her youngest son. The princess and her spouse busied themselves with the little boy, and the prince took such an interest in him that he made him an officer in the Persian army and himself fastened the insignia of the rank on the boy's breast.

SPAIN'S BRAVE FEW.

HEROIC DEFENSE MADE BY A HANDFUL AT BAIER.

A Company of Soldiers Defied Aguinaldo's Men For Nearly a Year—Desperate Straits Which Carried Off Almost Half the Men.

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SPAIN has something to grow wild over, after all, in the way of martial valor displayed in the war of 1808. Americans can rejoice, too, for the new heroes fought in the Philippines. It is a remarkable story which now may be pieced together from the statements of witnesses and participants, odd dispatches and accounts, the details of the defense of Baier—Baier, in Luzon.

On the 2d of September there was a banquet and reception at Barcelona in honor of 30 returning heroes who had held up the flag of Spain in the center of the island for over a year. This was the last scene in the drama and came upon the heels of the trial of Toral and other generals for cowardice in hastily surrendering Santiago. Another scene was the ovation given in Manila by Spaniards and Americans alike to the troop of barefooted boys whom the insurgents, out of sheer admiration for bravery, had permitted to march out from their bustling citadel with the honors of war after a year of defense, which had reduced the garrison from 55 to 31 men.

It was two months after the victory of Dewey over the Spanish navy and while our own troops were nearing the Philippines to capture the cities and towns that the insurgents in the Principe province, in eastern Luzon, hoisted the flag of defiance to Spain. There were only 55 of the king's soldiers in the province. They constituted a company under the lead of Captain Morenas and four lieutenants. The only defensible building in the town is a stone and brick church, and this Captain Morenas converted into a fortress, making it ready for a long siege. A Spanish flag was hoisted on the belfry, and stores of rice and wood were laid in, the wells and cisterns filled and rain barrels placed to catch water from the roof. Evidently the plucky officers had a presentiment of the fate in store, which was to be 337 days of patient waiting, arms in hand, interspersed with campaigns of assault and of gallant sorties for relief.

It was well for Captain Morenas that he acted with more than the usual Spanish energy, not waiting the convenient "tomorrow, tomorrow" of his countrymen, for just three days after he barred the doors of the church a force of 500 of Aguinaldo's troops, under General Ardez, marched upon Baier. The first act was a bold demand for the surrender of the church, and when that was refused the Filipinos tried to carry the citadel by storm. The result was like that of Santa Anna's Mexican hordes assaulting the Alamo, defended by the rifles of the Texans under Travis, Crockett and Bowie. The belfry, the windows and the walls of the church served as columns of vantage for the few riflemen, and they were better marksmen than the average Spaniard of '98. Aguinaldo's men soon beat a retreat, leaving dead and wounded behind them.

A siege was then begun in the hope of firing the Spaniards out by frequent attacks in superior force. Early in August, the fifth week of the siege, the enemy made another attack on the south side of the church, at the same time attempting to scale the walls on the north. Scaling ladders were brought up, and the nimble natives began to climb to the windows, 20 feet from the ground. The cook's quarters were on that side, and as there happened to be plenty of boiling water in the kettle the assailants were deluged with it and sent tumbling and howling to the ground. The cook then rallied some soldiers and the ladders were thrown down. The attack failed on both sides, and the insurgents took refuge in trenches.

After wasting five weeks in vain efforts to wear out the garrison the enemy sent three priests into the church to prevail upon Captain Morenas to surrender. The priests, however, joined fortunes with the Spaniards, nursing the wounded and even standing as sentries to ward off surprise. On Oct. 10 a new general came to the field, bringing fresh troops and three cannon. Demand for surrender was again spurned, and the cannon opened for the purpose of razing the church, as had been threatened in the demand for surrender. One shell entered the citadel, severely wounding the surgeon. During the fight Lieutenant Martin, second in command to Morenas, was hit by bullets while he directed the riflemen. Several insurgents were killed around the guns, one of the cannon burst and the affair ended in a general stampede. The new general gave up the task, turning the command over to a colonel.

Two weeks after the attack with cannon Captain Morenas died, as one account states, of fever. It is said also that he was shot by Lieutenant Martin for attempting to surrender. Martin was sick at the time with his wounds and a fever. Lieutenant Zayas took command meanwhile, but only lived a month. Soldiers were dying of wounds and fever. Although a great sufferer himself, Lieutenant Martin assumed command and quickly planned relief. The church lacked ventilation, and the dead were buried in the aisles.

A sortie was resolved upon as a means to inspire the men, give them fresh air and drive the enemy to a distance. When all was ready, the doors were thrown open and the little band charged furiously to the first trench, losing one killed and three wounded. The insurgents were routed and the Spaniards followed up, burning the nearby houses which had been used as cover by the besiegers. It was then safe to open the doors and windows of the fortress a few hours daily for ventilation. The bodies were also removed and buried in the trenches outside.

This sortie took place in December, and the Spaniards held the works outside for several days, long enough to banish the fever and restore the men to health. The winter passed without further attacks, but early in April the insurgents appeared in force, ready to assault the church on all sides. Great piles of wood were placed against the walls to be fired, where the wind would carry the smoke into the building and suffocate the defenders. A heavy rifle fire drove away the natives who attempted to ply the torch, and at night the wood was carried inside for cook's fuel. A party of insurgents tried to scale the windows with ladders, and the ever ready boiling water drove them away.

By this time the food of the garrison was at a low ebb. The men shot snakes outside, and at night brought them in for food. Cats and dogs were enticed inside and devoured, and even the rats which infested the place had to be drawn upon for food. For a time leaves of the calabasa growing in the churchyard was the only food. Finally Lieutenant Martin bribed a native to bring up small quantities of rice at night and leave it where his men could get it.

Two weeks after the last attempt to carry the citadel the first attempt at rescue from the outside was made by the United States warship Yorktown. Anchoring off Baier, the ship dispatched a cutter manned by 14 men under Lieutenant Gilmore to make soundings in the river and learn whether the vessel could sail up to the town.



"WHEN WE ROT."

The party disappeared from view behind a hill, and soon afterward volleys of musketry followed by cheers gave notice of a skirmish. Boats were sent out, but the searchers were fired upon, and the Filipinos refused to tell of the fate of Gilmore's party. At first they were reported massacred, but later it was learned that they were prisoners to the insurgents.

Aguinaldo refused to release Lieutenant Gilmore's party with other prisoners sent to the American camp. All the news gained by the Yorktown was that there was a Spanish flag flying over the church at Baier months after the Spanish had surrendered the island. This was seen by lookouts from the ship who climbed a high mountain to watch the progress of Lieutenant Gilmore's party and sound alarm in case of danger. The scene of the attack was shut off from the view of the lookouts. They reported three volleys and wild cheers, a fact which led to the surmise that the band had been massacred. The Spaniards saw the warship, but not knowing that the Spanish sway was ended in the Philippines, supposed that it was one of their own ships come to the rescue. They burned lights in the church tower at night and made distress signals by day, but the Yorktown sailed off, leaving them to their fate.

Among the captures with the Yorktown party was a magazine gun, and with this the Filipinos tried to drive out the brave garrison, and they might have succeeded had they known how to use the terrible machine. But they broke it beyond repair at the end of half a dozen rounds. The true purport of the visit of the Yorktown was made known to the brave garrison by kindly priests, and Lieutenant Martin resolved to capitulate. White flags were displayed on the walls, and terms were proposed and discussed to the acceptance of both parties, it seemed. Sick and wounded defenders were placed on stretchers, and, headed by the lieutenant, who was lying on a stretcher himself, the little band, reduced to 31 souls, stood ready to march out. At the last moment it became known that the insurgents looked upon the move as an unconditional surrender. The Spaniards then sullenly drew back, reloaded their guns and took their stations.

"We do not surrender!" shouted the gallant leader, from a window. "You should know us better. We will never surrender!" The natives held a parley and finally shouted, "When will you surrender?" "When we rot!" replied the lieutenant.

The Spaniards were ready to capitulate—that is, march out of their fort with the honors of war and be returned to their friends. This was granted, and they came out on May 31, carrying arms and flags and a pass from Aguinaldo giving them safe conduct to the American lines at Manila.

GEORGE L. KILMER.

OPPOSITION AT HOME.

English Radicals Expected to Combat War Measures.

GRIM PREPARATIONS CONTINUE.

England Getting Ready to Make Lavish Display of Force in South Africa—Duration of Campaign—Eight Months' Supplies Provided For.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—The complete dearth of news from the Cape on which all attention is riveted is poorly compensated for by the mass of minor details published concerning the preparations for the dispatch of the army corps, and speculation as to the length and character of the debates when parliament meets. In official circles there is said to be apprehension that the Radicals will offer protracted opposition to the government's policy in South Africa which will possibly make prorogation and Christmas near neighbors. Lord Salisbury's whip to the lords, issued last night, says the parliament will deal with matters of grave moment. The latest dispatch from Lourenzo Marquese relating to the chasing of the steamer Guelph by the cruiser Philmel, caused some stir, especially as it was announced that the Guelph had landed at Durban 415 cases of ammunition for the Boers. There is a pretty general feeling that ammunition ought not to be allowed to be forwarded.

The Pall Mall Gazette, referring to the matter, says: "There is some hope that the ammunition will be seized at Durban, as Natal possesses a ministry whose loyalty is unquestioned. Had not the Filipinos been given arms by Americans with which to fight Spain General Ois would long ago have been enjoying his ease at home. Similarly with the Boers, we may have to pay heavily in blood for the apathy the Cape government has exhibited in this matter."

Lord Wantage, president of the British Red Cross society, will shortly issue an appeal for contributions to aid in the work of the society, which, he says will provide two hospital trains and a hospital ship.

Some indications of the war office estimate of the duration of the campaign is given by the fact that the authorities have contracted for eight months' supplies of bread and other military requisitions rendered necessary by the absence of bulk of the army service corps, of whom the war office thus evidently calculates will be home again by the beginning of May. It appears that although the war office called up 25,000 reservists, only the pick of them, some 5,000 will be retained with the colors. The war office announces that wives of reservists will get six pence and each child two pence daily, while the husbands and fathers are retained with the colors.

Kruger Regards Situation as Grave.

PRETORIA, Oct. 10.—President Kruger in the course of an interview said he regarded the situation as very grave and considered it very difficult to predict coming events. The landing of British reinforcements in Natal, he said, did not trouble him, as he had full faith in the Almighty. Mr. Kruger declared he knew nothing of the reported declaration of Mr. Hoffmeir, the Afrikaner leader, and J. Rose Inness, under secretary of native affairs in South Africa, to come to Pretoria and that there was nothing further known regarding the suggested arbitration by the United States.

Fight on an Excursion Train.

MARYVILLE, Mo., Oct. 10.—Four Grand River men living near Gallatin, got into a fight on an excursion train while returning from the Omaha exposition last night between Burlington Junction and Wilcox, over a game of craps. One man attempted to take all the money on the board and the others jumped on him, assaulting him with fists, knives and beer bottles and he was badly cut. During the melee two women fainted and much excitement prevailed in the car, which was crowded.

Getting a Griffin Jury.

MARYVILLE, Mo., Oct. 10.—The examination of the 100 veniremen from whom the jury to try C. G. Jesse for the murder of Frank Griffin is to be drawn began in the Nodaway county circuit court yesterday. Court adjourned until tomorrow morning to give the lawyers time to make their peremptory challenges. The hearing of evidence will then begin.

Ameer May Provoke Conflict.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—The Daily Telegraph's St. Petersburg correspondent says Russian accounts represent Abdur Rahman Khan, ameer of Afghanistan, insane and likely to provoke a conflict between Russia and England. These reports say the ameer is sanctioning brutal executions and torturing of officials daily.

McKinley to Visit Omaha.

CHICAGO, Oct. 10.—After meeting the delegation from Omaha in his suite at the Auditorium annex this morning President McKinley promised that he would visit Omaha Oct. 16, after having been to Sioux City, if his other plans could be so arranged.

Rodman's Jeans Mills Resume.

KINGSTON, R. I., Oct. 10.—The mills of the Rodman Manufacturing company of North and South Kingston resumed operations today, after a shutdown of eighteen months. The plant manufactures doekin jeans and employs 500 men.

Governor's Mansion Robbed.

WIGHTIA, Kan., Oct. 10.—Burglars entered Governor Stanley's home last night and stole jewelry of considerable value and some money. The governor and his wife are at San Francisco to welcome the Twentieth Kansas.

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