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STORY OF THE ROKEBY VENUS

Painting Suffragette Slashed Has Interesting History.

COVETED BY AMERICANS.

Fear That England Would Lose Velasquez Masterpiece Led to Public Subscription to Keep It—Acquired by National Gallery Seven Years Ago. Genuineness Once Disputed.

The slashing of the Rokeby Venus by an English suffragette centers world interest upon this wonderful painting.

The Rokeby Venus took its name from Rokeby hall, in Yorkshire, where it hung for many years before it was brought to London. The painting shows Venus half reclining before a mirror. At the time the painting was brought to the national gallery in London, about seven years ago, several Americans tried to buy it. The national gallery had to pay what was then considered an enormous sum to retain the painting in England.

In 1906 the picture was sold under an order of the court of chancery for \$150,000 to Messrs. Agnew & Sons, and an outcry was started that America was after the Velasquez. A sum of \$225,000 was raised by public subscription and the painting was obtained for the national gallery. When, in April, 1910, a doubt as to its genuineness was set on foot by a critic in the Morning Post Lord Balcarras, who had charge of the fund, announced that he had a standing offer from an art collector to buy the picture for \$275,000. It was said at the time the offer came from an American. The genuineness of the masterpiece was soon afterward established to the satisfaction of all art critics.

The painting is one of the very few works of Velasquez which depict the nude human figure. The Spanish inquisition prescribed a fine of 1,500 ducats, excommunication and a year's exile for any one who painted an "immodest picture." In the later years of his life Velasquez painted two pictures of the woman depicted in this painting. One of them was called "Venus and Adonis" and the other "Psyche and Cupid." Both were listed among the pictures in the Alcazar at Madrid in 1666, 1686 and 1700 and then disappeared.

Charles B. Curtis in his book "Velasquez and Murillo" suggests that both paintings were in the palace at Madrid when it was burned in 1734, that "Venus and Adonis" was destroyed and that "Psyche and Cupid" survived and was the painting which eventually fell into the hands of Robert Morrill of Rokeby Park, in Yorkshire, and came to be known as the Rokeby "Venus." There is a black spot near the head of Cupid which has been attributed to scorching in the fire.

Mr. Morrill bought the picture for \$2,500 on the recommendation of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Miss May Richardson, the suffragette who mutilated the valuable canvas, was arrested on July 4 last for dropping a petition in the lap of King George while he was driving through Bristol. She served three months for that. The moment she was released she went to Hampton and was arrested there with Miss Rachel Pearce, charged with setting fire to the former home of Chancellor Tristram. Miss Richardson was sentenced to jail for four months, but would take no food and was set free when physicians said she had appendicitis.

MICE HABITS HIS DEFENSE.

Doctor Relies on Natural History to Defeat Claims of His Valet.

Dr. E. Doyen of Paris is being sued by a former valet named Pignol, for \$210, representing, so Pignol says, advances made to the doctor for traveling expenses and amounts disbursed for the upkeep of 500 white mice, 100 white rats, 90 guinea pigs and 100 rabbits.

The doctor asserts that Pignol has greatly exaggerated the number of animals in his charge.

Dr. Doyen's argument throws an interesting light on the habits of white mice. It appears that white mice can only be kept in batches of four. If a fifth is introduced the intruder is devoured instantly.

Moreover the mother mouse is of so nervous a temperament that if the cage is touched or even looked at during the first days of her maternity she promptly eats the little ones.

Dr. Doyen argues that because of the peculiar habits of white mice it would be quite impossible for Pignol to keep 500 of them in the small space at his disposal.

TURNING HEN INTO ROOSTER.

That the sexes are not so definitely separated as has been assumed has been demonstrated by Professor Pesard of Paris, who, by means of grafting, succeeded in changing the characteristics of a rooster and a hen. The rooster, which is now living a normal existence, has lost his brilliant plumage, spurs and comb, while the hen has developed all those features.

RABBIT SKINS BY MAIL.

Sent by Parcel Post From Washington State to Paris.

Tacoma, Wash.—From Chewelah, in Stevens county, this state, 80,000 rabbit skins have just been sent by parcel post to Paris for manufacture into fur hats.

The shipments were made by men who rounded up many rabbits and paid ranchers for thousands more. Ranchers hope that a market will be found for millions of jack rabbits, now regarded as pests throughout eastern Washington and Oregon.

Each package of pelts for Paris required a blank customs invoice on a linen tag specially provided by the postoffice.

Surrounding counties and adjacent states are deluging Chewelah with letters of inquiry regarding the rabbit market. The department of agriculture is seeking information to assist in extending the market.

TWENTY DOGS TO EACH BABY.

Legislator Shocked by Conditions in Boston's Back Bay.

Boston.—That the Back Bay has twenty dogs to every infant, a full score of kennels to each perambulator, was the assertion made by Representative John L. Donoran, the "Mayor of Chinatown," in opposing the bill authorizing cities and towns to provide for the care and disposal of homeless dogs and cats.

"Out in the Back Bay," he said, "there are more cats and dogs than there are children and I am not surprised if the Back Bay has become alarmed over its unfortunates. I say let the Back Bay take care of its cats and dogs. I hope the bill will be killed."

BLOOD FROZEN 40,000 YEARS.

Taxidermists Discover Liquid in Animal Found in Ice Block.

Paris.—The taxidermists at the Natural History museum are now preparing the body of a mammoth which lived 40,000 years ago and was recently found frozen in a Siberian ice block. The animal was so large that it had to be quartered before being brought to the Paris museum.

The experts discovered in a vein a few drops of brownish substance which proved on analysis to be blood which had remained liquid through 400 centuries.

The carcass was in excellent condition, the hide being intact and the flesh showing no signs of decomposition.

WOMAN TAKES JOB AS TOWN MARSHAL.

Offer, Made in Spirit of Levity, Accepted by Writer.

Chesaning, Mich.—Blanche D. Ingalls, editor and part owner of the Chesaning Monitor, a weekly newspaper, has been appointed marshal to fill the vacancy caused by the dismissal of the man officer some weeks ago. She has formally accepted the appointment and says she will begin the work of improving the morals of the town at once.

The old marshal was dismissed because the village officials had no money to pay for his services, and he was no sooner off the job than things that upset the peace and dignity of this staid little town began to happen.

Miss Ingalls also began to write and in her paper said uncomplimentary things about the way things were being run. The whole place was "going to the bad because there was no one to maintain order," she often hinted.

But the officials remained firm until now and kept the marshal job open until a special meeting of the council was called and the president named a man for the place. The other members declined to confirm the appointment and Miss Ingalls' name was suggested. The vote for her was unanimous, partly, she says, "because they thought I wanted to run the town."

At the outset Marshal Ingalls faces a knotty problem, as there is no jail "fit to house a human."

"And," she says, "I am never going to lock anybody up in that place they call a jail. I don't know what I'm going to do, but I'm going to do something. Things will begin to pop here pretty quick and I am going to be right in the center of the popper."

LONDON HAS ESCALATORS.

Thirty Thousand Ride on "New Toy" the First Day.

London.—London has been given another new toy to play with. Escalators at Charing Cross Embankment station connecting the district and the Waterloo railways were opened, and it is estimated in the first three hours 10,000 persons had made trips on them.

When the escalators ceased revolving in the early hours the total cargo for the day probably reached 30,000 passengers.

Proposes \$15,000,000 Air Fleet.

Washington. A \$15,000,000 aeroplane fleet was proposed in a bill by Representative L'Eggle of Florida. He painted a picture of cities being destroyed by bombs and compared the foreign air fleets with that of the United States, which, he said, was composed of "twelve obsolete man killing aeroplanes."

TISSUE FROM THE DEAD FOR INSANE

Surgeon Who Transplanted Glands Expects Cures.

DUE TO GARREL DISCOVERY

Rockefeller Institute Expert Found That Secreting Organ of the Human Body Retains Its Vitality, and Chicago Doctor's Experiments Are Based on That Fact.

The surgical world is awaiting the result of remarkable operations performed in Chicago on persons suffering from dementia precox and in which cases glands from dead persons were transplanted to the patients.

These operations took place at the Dunning State Hospital for the Insane and were performed by Dr. G. Frank Lydston, who has been working on the idea of gland implantation for fourteen years, and the discovery of Dr. Alexis Carrel of the Rockefeller institute in New York that some glands live after death showed him the way. The greater part of recent medical and surgical research, the surgeon said, has been directed to studies of the various glands of the body the functions of which heretofore have not been understood or have been understood only slightly.

Particularly the thyroid gland and the spleen have been under the microscope of research. Dr. Carrel has found the tissues in them retain their vitality long after what is known as death.

Dr. Lydston was assisted in the last two operations by Dr. George Leininger, superintendent of the Dunning hospital. The patients are a girl seventeen years old, who has been suffering for two years, and a woman, twenty-six years, who has been insane for five years.

The Dunning operations followed an announcement by Dr. Lydston that he had performed a similar operation on himself and also on a woman fifty-six years old.

"We are going to wait for results now," said Dr. Leininger, "and if we see that the operations have been a success we shall go right ahead and cure more insane patients."

Glands Taken From Dead Girl.

In the operation on the seventeen-year-old girl Dr. Lydston implanted a gland which was a twin to one he implanted in a woman fifty-nine years old nearly a week before. This gland had been kept in "cold storage" since that time. Both the glands he used and the one implanted in the woman six days before were removed seven days earlier from the body of an eighteen-year-old girl who had been killed by a fracture of the skull.

Dr. Lydston believes that the glands which he has implanted have the function of supplying certain secretions to the brain and nerve cells.

THE WILD AND WOOLLY WEST.

National Cowboy Rangers Organized to Perpetuate Spirit of Bygone Days.

The true characteristics of the "wild and woolly west" are to be perpetuated, according to the articles of incorporation filed at Cheyenne, Wyo., for the establishment of the Supreme Ranch of the World, National Order of Cowboy Rangers, with supreme headquarters at Cheyenne. It is a nonprofit making fraternal order, calculated to give to the real cowboys of the range and associate members whom they may elect all of the elements of freedom and liberty best known to the man of the saddle and lariat.

Ex-President Roosevelt, James C. Dahlgren, the "cowboy mayor" of Omaha; Lieutenant Governor Ingalls of Kansas and other well known men will be offered places in the supreme ranch. Ranches will be established in each state throughout the Union as well as in every country where the raising of live stock is an important industry.

The Rangers will be a purely fraternal society, having some ritualistic work and secrets which are not to be put into print. The initiation will be held in much the same way as the tenderfoot was made a part of the ranch.

COMMODORE BARRY STATUE.

Parade of Soldiers and Sailors Part of Elaborate Program in Washington.

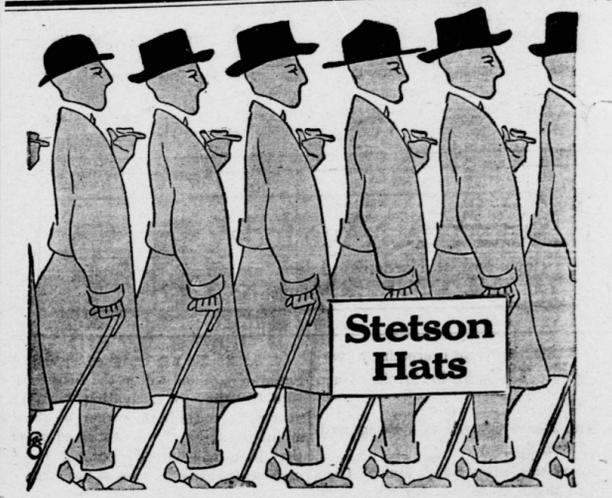
Representatives of the Irish-American organizations interested in the statue to be erected in Franklin park, Washington, to Commodore John Barry, May 16, have decided to follow the unveiling, which is to take place in the afternoon, with a banquet in the evening and to precede it the day before with a pilgrimage to Mount Vernon.

Some of the nation's foremost orators will be asked to speak at the banquet. Wreaths will be laid on the tomb of Washington at Mount Vernon because of Barry's association with the first president.

The war department will be asked to designate Major General Barry to command a parade of United States soldiers, sailors and marines on duty in and near Washington just before the unveiling.

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