

GAY SCENES ON VERA CRUZ SHIPS

Moving Pictures and Boxing Bouts Chief Diversions.

OFFICERS AT THE RINGSIDE

But Bluejackets, Astride Big Guns and Crowding Cage Masts, Form the Court of Last Decision In All Contests—Sailors on Shore Leave Return With All Sorts of Curiosities.

To all external appearances the American fleet at Vera Cruz has put aside thoughts of its vitalizing yet deadly experience ashore and gives no sign of its recent human sacrifices as a result of the "peaceful occupation" of Vera Cruz, says Dudley Harmon in a recent dispatch from Harman in the New York Sun.

That is the beauty about the navy in a situation like the present, he continues. The new navy has the faculty of making for itself more business than any other institution could conceive of; a faculty which is at times annoying, but under conditions at Vera Cruz a most happy circumstance.

On some evenings and on some ships the fleet is really as gay as it looks. The bluejacket dearly loves a party, and with the relaxations of peace about Vera Cruz opportunities for satisfying the desire for recreation have gradually increased. Every battleship is now a moving picture theater, and the presence of the majority of the vessels of the fleet at Vera Cruz affords opportunity for an almost unlimited exchange of movie films between ships.

Boxing and Vaudeville.

To the landsman, however, the audience at these shows is the most interesting feature of the spectacle. On the Arkansas, for example, Admiral Badger's flagship, and one of the giants of the fleet, second only to the New York, it is a scene long to be remembered when the after deck is transformed into a theater. At the extreme after turret the screen is rigged, with the band just in front of it, and then a boxing ring, also used as a vaudeville stage.

Officers are honored with chairs "at the ringside," but above their heads are hundreds of bluejackets with much finer seats. The upper works of the ship are completely hidden, sitting astride the twelve inch guns and crowding the great cage masts. They are the real gallery gods, the court of last decision from whose verdicts the performer has no appeal.

But it is not all play for the bluejacket at Vera Cruz by a good deal. The boat crews running to shore and to other ships are on duty day and night. All sorts of repairs are under

way, while ships are being freshly painted within and without. Every afternoon all the sailing boats are put over the side and the crews drilled in elementary seamanship, but also every afternoon a swimming party goes ashore from each ship for the instruction of those who have not qualified as swimmers, while those who have qualified are permitted to splash over the ship's side at 5 every evening and at 7 in the morning.

Shore leave has been given the last few days, at first only twenty-five men from each ship every afternoon, but gradually increasing as the first parties returned the ships are rapidly becoming floating menageries and junk shops.

Parrots have come aboard by the score, with a few canaries and doves and geese. Strange and sticky Mexican concoctions of sugar and cocoa nut have been brought alongside at most by the ton, to be distributed among those not so fortunate as to win out in the drawings for shore leave. Mexican baskets, red pottery blankets and even the gaudy pictures of which the Mexican peon is so fond are now decorating secluded spots about the ships.

Good Spenders.

Ashore in his captured city the bluejacket is a king. In his neat white dress uniform and black neckerchief, well set up, with fresh complexion and clear eye, he is a sight good to behold in contrast with the slouching, dirty and undersized Mexicans. There is not a corner of the city so remote but what he is to be found there, usually bargaining for something to eat, drink or take home.

The money changers are doing a thriving business, while for the small storekeepers and street vendors it is a real harvest. The bluejacket has nothing cheap about him. Every afternoon strings of coaches go to the wharf where the liberty parties land so of getting plenty of fares as soon as the sailors have provided themselves with Mexican cigars, for according to the Mexican's opinion one does not attain real dignity and affluence by riding in a coach unless smoking a big cigar.

Vera Cruzians have been quick to learn the bluejackets' tastes, and it sometimes seems as if at least half the population had gone into the merchandising business looking for the soldiers' and sailors' money. Establishments are changing their signs from Spanish to English or adding "English spoken" to their advertisements, though the fact usually is that their English is limited to a knowledge of Uncle Sam's coinage.

After Thirty.

"I never saw my daughter economical but once."
"How did that happen?"
"She was buying candles for her birthday cake."—Pittsburgh Post.

A Zoological Break.

Teacher—Tommy, what is a boomerang? Tommy—I can't describe it exactly, but I know it has a short tail and can climb trees.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

MONEY AND A MAID

And a Financial Deal That Had a Curious Climax.

AN EXPERIMENT IN SAVING.

It Looked as Though the Plan Proposed by Papa Was Doomed to Failure, but the Little Lassie Had a Big Surprise For Her Fond Parent.

It is not necessary to mention her name, but it is of interest to note that she is the daughter of one of "the first families of Virginia," and one characteristic of these same first families is apt to be an utter carelessness of that which pays for your daily bread and mine and which keeps us all out of the poorhouse—money.

She was just rising eleven, this little maid, two years ago when her father first noted her lack of interest in things financial. Starting as a barefoot boy because of the prodigality of his progenitors, he had drifted north, worked for a scant living at whatever he could get to do, developed an ability, studied, worked and climbed until at last he found himself a success and was able to spend about \$10,000 a year for the maintenance of himself and the wife and child he had accumulated. Then said the wise papa to himself, remembering his days of poverty and stress, "I must teach her to save."

He tried several plans, all of which failed to have any good effect. Just a year ago he hit upon a scheme which seemed to have merit.

"Here, Boots," he said, "I want to make a proposition to you. This is what I propose: I will give you a brand new dollar bill every Saturday night, and I will write the date upon each one. At the end of the year I want you to show me how many of those actual dollar bills you have, and for every one you can show me I will give you two. Do you think you can make money that way?"

The child thought she could and repeated the conditions as well as her mind grasped them, but her father thought she did not get them accurately.

"Wait," he said; "I'll write it out so that there cannot be any error."

So he wrote:

"I will give you a new one dollar bill every Saturday night. I will write the date on each one as I give it to you. For every such bill that you can show me at the end of the year I will give you two others." Then he signed it.

There was a dearth of childish funds for awhile in that household and not a few efforts on the part of the daughter to extort money from her mother, who was wise and refused accommodation. But some way, it did not then transpire how the little girl dug herself out of penury and into comparative affluence and that without meaning to exercise guile. She seemed to have money in her purse and was quite able to hold up her end at the soda fountain or wherever else her little friends gathered, and her parents, who said nothing at all about it to her, wondered and speculated, finally agreeing that Boots was spending at least a large part of her allowance.

The dollar bill came every week, duly inscribed with the date of the gift, and was accepted by the little maiden with appropriate thanks. Then came the Christmas holidays, and the parents wondered if she would save her money or remember them. She remembered them, but not with much expenditure. Then came the last of the fiscal year, and the father inscribed another note and turned it over to her.

"Now, Boots," he said, "I have given you fifty-two of these, and I promised you two for every one you could show me at the end of the year. How many have you?"

"I'll get them for you," said the innocent child and ran away.

The old folks had a laugh between themselves while she was gone, thinking that she would exhibit two or three bills and fully believing that the experiment had failed. Then in came the daughter. She laid a sheaf of bills down before her father.

He counted them—fifty-two! All unused and bearing his indorsement of the date of gift. Among them was the agreement written by her father.

"Now, how much do you owe me?" she asked.

"I reckon I owe you \$104," he said, "but I cannot see how you managed to save every one of these bills and yet had all the money you have spent."

"Well, pop," she answered, "it's this way. I told Joe one time that I couldn't spend any money, although I had it, and he asked me why. I told him and showed him what you had written. Then he made me what you call a proposition.

"He has an allowance of \$2 a week. He said he would give me 70 cents a week if I would keep all the bills and give them to him at the end of the year after showing them to you. It's a perfectly fair agreement. I have had my 70 cents a week, I show the bills, you give me \$104 and I turn over to him the \$2. He makes \$15.00, and I make \$104. And I don't have to be poor or broke."

Now, what would you do with a child like that?—Detroit Free Press.

Let those who would affect singularity with success first determine to be very virtuous, and they will be sure to be very singular.—Walter Colton.

Being Lucid.

If you wish to achieve a reputation for originality and distinction try being lucid. There is nothing quite like it. "Permit me to thank you for your lucid exposition of"—it matters not what the subject.

What is it to be lucid? It is to write something which the man who compliments you because you have been lucid about it agrees with. No one who disagrees with you ever called you lucid. No woman ever referred to her husband as a lucid husband. No man ever called his wife a lucid wife.—Life.

PRACTICAL BAKING LESSONS

CAKES, (Continued)

In last week's lesson, I gave full directions and two simple recipes for cake baking. The great essentials in making cakes, are to use good materials, to measure carefully, and to use care in baking. A cake should look appetizing. A careless cook will seldom make a good cake or one that looks good. It is worth while to use a little extra care and attention in order to have a nice appearing cake.

Nevada Briggs

White Cake

3/4 cup butter 1 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup milk or water Whites of three eggs
2 cups sifted pastry flour
3 level teaspoons K C Baking Powder
1 teaspoonful vanilla extract.

To mix white cake, measure the flour and sift it at least three times with the baking powder. Next cream the butter and sugar together until creamy and white; then add the water or milk and the flour mixture a little at a time, alternately to this creamed mixture, stirring it all the time. After all moisture and flour are added and the batter is perfectly smooth and glossy, beat the whites of the eggs until they are stiff, adding these to the batter last. Bake in two medium sized layer pans and put together with chocolate, pineapple or plain icing.

Simple Chocolate Filling

1 1/2 cups of powdered or confectioner's sugar and enough milk or water to dissolve the sugar. Work it into a smooth paste by stirring, then add 2 tablespoonfuls of melted cooking chocolate and when smooth, spread upon the cake. To melt the chocolate break in lumps, place in a cup set in boiling water or over the steam of the tea kettle.

Uncooked Pineapple Icing

3/4 cup grated pineapple
1 egg white (unbeaten)
2 cups powdered or confectioner's sugar
Put egg white in bowl with the pineapple; take a rotary egg beater and beat the sugar in a very little at a time and continue beating until icing is stiff enough to spread. This icing is improved by long beating and adding sugar gradually, not much at a time. This recipe may be varied by using 1/2 cup of any kind of crushed fruit, such as grated sour apple, strawberries, peaches, bananas, orange juice, or lemon juice diluted one half with water.

Boiled Icing

3/4 cup boiling water Whites of 1 egg
1 cup granulated sugar
Stir sugar and boiling water until sugar is dissolved; put over fire and cook without stirring until the syrup will form a soft spiny ball when dropped in cold water. Then pour into a bowl of egg whites, beating constantly until stiff enough to spread. Flavor to suit and spread upon the cake; a little lemon juice added to the syrup thickens the icing sponge. This makes enough for two layers. Instead of 3/4 cup water use 1/4 cup of any fruit juice to make different icings. Nuts, raisins or figs can be added if desired.

Eggless Icing

2 cups powdered or confectioner's sugar; juice of 1/2 lemon and water, cream or milk to soften sugar to consistency to spread. This cannot fail for if one should get it too soft, simply add a little more sugar. This is also made with any kind of fruit juice to soften sugar instead of water, cream or milk.

Gold Cake

3/4 cup butter Yolks of 4 eggs
3/4 cup sugar 3/4 cup milk or water
1 cup flour 1/2 level teaspoonfuls of melted
2 level teaspoonfuls K C Baking Powder
Grated rind of orange

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The next lesson will be on Muffins with several excellent recipes and full directions how to make them light and moist.



SEASONABLE PUDDINGS.

PUDDINGS to suit all tastes are represented below. They are compounded with fruits and nuts and range from the comparatively simple everyday pudding to the elaborate kind for special occasions. They are suitable for dinner or luncheon.

Pineapple and Tapioca Pudding.—Take one-half cupful tapioca; wash and put in double boiler, with a scant quart cold water and a pinch of salt. Cook until as clear as starch. Stir often to prevent lumping. Remove from the fire, put into the dish in which you intend to serve it, add one-half cupful sugar and a can of shredded pineapple. When cold whip cream and spread on top.

Nut and Fruit Dessert.

Walnut and Banana Pudding.—Shell and peel three ounces walnuts; cut them into fine shreds. Peel also three to four ripe bananas and rub them through a fine sieve. Chop finely four ounces of beef suet free from skin. Put this into a mixing basin and add four ounces breadcrumbs, two ounces moist sugar, a pinch of salt, the juice and finely grated rind of half a lemon. Stir all well together and lastly mix with the walnuts and banana pulp; then stir in two well beaten eggs. Have ready a well buttered pudding mold, sprinkle the inside with finely crushed dried macaroons and breadcrumbs and fill up with the above preparation. Stand the mold in a pan containing a little hot water and bake the pudding in a moderately heated oven.

A Steamed Pudding.

Banana and Rhubarb Pudding.—Cream in a basin two ounces of butter with two ounces of powdered sugar; then spread the inside of a pudding dish or mold thickly with it. Now make a sweet paste with half a pound of flour, quarter of a pound of finely chopped beef suet, half a teaspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of baking powder and sufficient cold water to make a stiff crust. Roll the paste out and line the prepared pudding dish, keeping a piece of paste to cover it. Fill the mold with bananas peeled and cut into slices; also with rhubarb cleaned and cut into inch lengths. Add about two tablespoonfuls of moist sugar and half a teaspoonful of ground ginger. Moisten with about half a cupful of water. Wet the edges of the paste and lay on the lid, pressing the ends firmly together. Tie a piece of greased white paper on a wetted pudding cloth or two; then steam the pudding for two hours or bake in the oven for one and three-quarter hours. Turn out and serve hot.

Prayer of Ajax.

Ajax, king of Salamis, who acted a prominent part in the siege of Troy, is given lines in Homer's "Iliad" to fit his heroic character. Pope's translation reads:

"Lord of earth and air;
O king, O father, hear my humble prayer;
Dispel this cloud, the light of heaven restore;
Give me to see, and Ajax asks no more.
If Greece must perish, we thy will obey.
But let us perish in the face of day."

Dinner Table Language.

English is the sea language and French is the dinner table language, and we cannot understand the dinner menu drawn up in German (as the latter decreases instead of French). We tried in Smollett's time to translate hors d'oeuvres into "whets," and later on the attempt has been made with "appetizers," which suggest only "cock-tails." "Fat liver paste" has been suggested as an equivalent for "pate de foie gras." But none of these will serve. The dish with its compounds must be disguised by a polite tongue, and there is much difference between the delicate veiling of the French and the dreadful frankness of the German. —Pall Mall Gazette.

One on the Teacher.

Eather, returning from her first day at school, was asked by her mother, "How do you like school?"
"Oh, school is very nice, but I don't think my teacher knows very much. She could not read my writing."—Indianapolis News.

Passion is out of place in any discussion and more than ever in a right cause, for it befores and bemuddles it.—Gogol.

STOP-LOOK-LISTEN

No. 4

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