



TALES OF PLUCK AND ADVENTURE

Soldiers Lost in the Snow.

DETAILS of the tragic and extraordinary disaster that befell a large company of Japanese soldiers in January are brought by steamer from Aomori, the terminus of the Tokaido Railway north of Tokio. A detachment of 219 troops, under command of Major Yamaguchi, set out from their garrison at Hirosaki for a winter march over the mountains to Toshikimura on an expedition undertaken to demonstrate measures necessary to transport military baggage through the snow. The detachment was caught in a snowstorm, and as further progress was impossible they bivouacked. With the exception of Captain Kaminari, Major Yamaguchi, Captain Karashi, Lieutenant Ito and two non-commissioned officers and four privates, the troop was lost, some being frozen to death and others buried in the deep snow.

They left the garrison on January 22, and as not a man returned next day an inquiry was instituted, and on the 27th the terrible fate of the detachment was learned. The entire Fifth Regiment, of which the missing detachment was the second battalion, and the townspeople of Hirosaki organized a searching party, and on the morning of the 28th Captain Kaminari and two sergeants were found in a precarious condition lying in the snow three miles from the town of Aomori, where they had struggled to carry the news of the disaster and been prostrated.

When revived they told how the detachment had been overtaken by the storm soon after starting. They had reached Tomokino with difficulty, and it was found impossible to proceed further. It was decided to camp, but the men were short of fuel, for fires and rations were carried for two days only. It was found impossible for the whole force to move in one body and Major Yamaguchi ordered his men to break up into small parties, which was done. The snow had fallen so deep that the troops could not see their sledges, and had to carry their outfits and goods in packs through the snow.

On the 24th forty-one men were missing from the main body and scouting parties sent to seek them were also lost. The snow was very deep, and the thermometer registered twenty degrees below zero. At night the detachment bivouacked in two bodies, and next morning when the march was resumed the track was lost. One by one the men fell exhausted in the snow, which was a grave to many. Others fell out and made fires of their haversacks, the stocks of their rifles and extra clothing in the attempt to keep alive. The terrible march kept taking its victims until all were down in the snow.

A sergeant and three privates were found in a charcoal burner's hut where they were lying on the floor exhausted. Captain Kaminari was found where he and two others had tried to make a fire while struggling toward Aomori for assistance. Captain Karashi was discovered standing in snow to his breast. He told rescuers that Major Yamaguchi and others were somewhere in the neighborhood, and he ordered the rescuers to leave him and search for them. While some of the soldiers carried the captain away others found a rock a little below where the captain had been caught in the snow.

Major Yamaguchi was sitting amid seven dead soldiers and Lieutenant Ito lay unconscious near by. The major was wearing two blankets over his shoulder and another strapped about his waist, having evidently been put there by the men who were eager to save their commander.

The men were at first unable to lift their commander, as his body was frozen to the ground. A hatchet was used to cut off the blankets and overcoats before he could be taken to an ambulance. The major, who was in a weak state and could hardly articulate, shed tears and told the rescue party that the only reason he wished to live was so that he could place a full report of the disaster before the military authorities.

The self-sacrifices of these troops who were dying in such terrible circumstances were shown again and again. Instances were told by the survivors of how the men had carried their commanding officer, when he became unconscious, to the best shelter available by the large rock, and seven had died beside him after burning their extra clothing to supply warmth. At a point 200 metres from Yesukimori the bodies of Lieutenant Nakano and eight men were taken from the snow. Only a portion of their caps and overcoats was visible. When they were discovered they were all lying on their backs with folded arms and their eyes were open. In no case were any gloves or shoes found on their bodies, nor were there any rifles or haversacks near by. These had been burned. Corporal Gatos was found near by buried to the waist in the snow, and sixty feet from Corporal Gatos's body the body of Captain Mamiari was found under four feet of snow. When dug out his face was covered with ice and his body was cold. When restoratives were applied the captain showed signs of life, but died without regaining consciousness.

With Brigand Captives.

Miss Ellen M. Stone, the American missionary, until recently held captive by brigands, is now in Constantinople. Miss Stone and Mme. Tsilka, her companion, are in excellent health.

A. A. Gargiulo, the First Dragoman of the United States Legation, says the brigands called Mme. Tsilka's baby Kismetcha, or "Luck Child," alleging that she brought them luck.

The following account of the captivity of Miss Stone has been obtained, some of the information having been secured from accomplices of the brigands.

After the capture of the missionaries near Bansko, September 3 last, the brigands hastened across the boundary and established themselves on the mountain of Gueltepe, in the Elledere district, Bulgaria, where the whole population were in sympathy with the enterprise, this fact enabling the band to live comfortably and safely and to keep in touch with the outside world.

While awaiting the result of their efforts to secure the ransom the brigands drew their supplies from the adjacent village of Ledjuna. Feeding perfectly secure the members of the band used to show themselves openly in neighboring villages until they were warned by their local adherents to be more careful. The prisoners, however, were jealously secluded.

When C. M. Dickinson, United States Consul-General at Constantinople, arrived in Sofia early in October last and disclosed to the authorities the whereabouts of Miss Stone's captors the result was nearly disastrous to the prisoners. The Bulgarian Government, ill-advised, pushed troops to the vicinity of Gueltepe, forcing the brigands to break off negotiations, and the band changed its quarters to Kilo.

The cold weather made travel in the mountains a dreadful ordeal for Miss Stone and Mme. Tsilka, encumbered as they were with the latter's infant. Every change of camp occurred at night. The mountain roads frequently were almost impassable, often being deep in snow. The brigands treated their captives as kindly as the circumstances permitted, but the food supply was precarious, though the ladies received the best the inhospitable region afforded.

The strain and suspense equaled the physical hardships. The captives at no time knew their whereabouts, the brigands always telling them that they were not in Bulgaria, and they were in constant fear of an attack by the troops, who at times were close upon the trail of the band. An equal cause of anxiety was the baby, which it was feared would die from exposure.

Not until November 2 did the American emissaries come in touch with the band, which then was established in a cave near Dubnitza, but fear of the troops forced the brigands to another flight. This was made in a blinding snowstorm, which covered the tracks of the outlaws, but caused bitter sufferings to the captives.

After this the brigands succeeded in completely eluding the authorities, and toward the end of November, by a long circuit, they succeeded in returning to their old haunts in the Elledere district. They then caused to be circulated a report that the captives were dead, and from that time managed to keep Miss Stone and Mme. Tsilka safely under cover until the actual release of the captives took place.

Man and Wildcat Mix.

Cornstalk Creek, a small stream, flows through a broken and densely wooded strip of country, four miles south of Ladoga, Ind. William Morgan was passing through this region a few days ago, and while in one of the loneliest portions, known as Dark Hollow, he heard the cry of a catamount. The animal was fifty feet away, and was climbing down a broken tree. Every hair on Morgan's hair stood on end when he saw the animal before him. He knew if he ran the animal would take after him and would give him battle if he stood against it. He jumped behind a tree near at hand. Morgan is a man of unusual strength and activity, and as he stood behind the tree he concluded that the best way out of the danger was to fight the animal.

He picked up a club and as he started around the tree the catamount came after him, around and around the tree the man and catamount ran. When opportunity offered Morgan would turn and give the animal a blow on the head. He blinded the catamount to one eye with a blow, and then made a dash for the tree, from which the animal had descended. The animal followed him in a maddened rush, and accented Morgan with her claws. He dealt the catamount a powerful blow behind the ears with his club, and she dropped to the ground. Morgan was bleeding profusely after the encounter, but managed to make his way to a road, where a friend gathered him up and took him to a physician. Since the animal was killed farmers have ceased to lose hogs and humps. They now think the catamount carried off a number of head. Morgan will recover. Indianapolis News.

Game Tarpon. It is not an unheard-of thing for tarpon to leap on board of low-lying craft. There is an instance of a tremendous one jumping to the deck of a tugboat near the mouth of the Brazos River. It struck an iron stanchion a half-inch thick, bent it six inches out of plumb and flopped back into the water. On another occasion in the shallow port off this river a negro fisherman, sitting in the bow of a small skiff, was struck by a leaping tarpon, knocked backward into the sea, stunned and drowned.

NEWS NOTES FOR WOMEN

Empire Motifs. Empire patterns in lace are taking the lead, and very pretty some of them are, such as a half-oval wreath of laurel leaves, having an inner festoon of flowers, tied with ribbon bows.

The New Loose-Fitting Frocks. In consequence of the contour given the figure by the low-bust, straight-front corset, and the bouffant effect of shirt waists and bodices at the front, the fit of coats, jackets and outer garments generally, of the present season, is looser than heretofore.

The general principle of this easy fit over the front is similar to that of the present style of overcoat for men. The satisfactory results experienced in wearing a garment of this cut are surpassed only by the feeling of comfort in knowing that a handsome bodice or shirt waist will not be crushed and deprived of its original freshness after being worn only once or twice under a garment cut on lines heretofore fashionable.—The Delineator.

On Brushing the Hair. The most famous hairdresser in London has scolded the fashionable ladies of England by warning them that, in following old traditions, they are brushing the beauty out of their hair.

The incessant brushing of the present day is ruinous to the hair," he says. "Some women used to give their hair one hundred strokes of the brush night and morning, and have good hair in spite of it. An occasional person might do so now, but the good hair is in spite of the brush, not because of it.

All new hairs appear first as a soft, delicate fuzz, easily pulled out or destroyed. Stiff brushing will wear them out, just as it will wear out the nap of cloth. The hair-roots try to make up for the destruction. They are forced into abnormal growth, and their life force is depleted. The old hair is falling. The new hair is not being allowed to live and grow. The life force is being exhausted. The hair gets thin, straggling, unhealthy, dies out altogether, and there you have the bald woman or man."

A Woman Florist's Success. I have better success with geraniums than with any other flower, writes Mrs. Leroy R. Whitener. In July or August I plant cuttings for winter blooming, using four or six-inch pots, in cans or anything, filled with a mixture of well-rotted stable manure, leaf mold and garden soil. I put one cutting in the pot in which it is to stay and do not transplant. When five or six inches high, I pinch out the top and pinch the ends again later on, until I have a bushy plant. Keep all buds pinched off until November, and then the plants will be full of luxuriant blooms all winter.

I have no pit or greenhouse, but keep my plants in the south and west windows all over the house. In very cold weather I pin a newspaper around each plant, and have never had any frozen, even in our coldest winters. In the spring I put these geraniums in beds in the yard or in larger pots on the porch, where they grow very large and bloom profusely, but they are not good for house plants the following winter. I rarely ever keep a geranium more than two years.—Home and Flowers.

Glove Buying. "I never patronize bargain counters," remarked a very clever little woman to me.

"Not even glove sales?" I questioned.

"Never," she replied emphatically, adding: "My investigation has proven to me that the so-called bargain articles are cheap and often worthless ones. We get what we pay for; no more certainly, and we hope not less. I am speaking now of firms whose business life is the ever exacting rush of 'special sales.' For service, comfort, style and fit the glove should be carefully selected. A well-made, well-fitting glove does more to determine the lady than any other article of apparel, unless it be shoes.

"Cheapness is not economy. Extravagance is not economy. Only the best article comes under the economical code. This code demands an elastic knit, which is soft and moulds itself to the hand from finger tip to wrist. A glove too small cannot attain in perfection. One need not err in this respect, for the best gloves are made for long, medium and short fingers.

"Having once secured a 'fit' it is well to adhere to the make. The 'Stude' is reliable, but an extravagant luxury to the average pocketbook, as they do not shed soil readily. Black gloves also cannot claim a recommendation for the careful buyer. Even the best makes often crack in the dye, and the suedes are guilty of too soon an appearance of white or purple finger tips. White gloves when not worn should be kept wrapped in soft linen or silk handkerchief."—New York Observer.

Some Facts About the Geisha Girl. "The idea so general here in America," said a woman who has just returned from Japan, "that the geisha is a silly, giggling little girl with a fan must really be corrected. The geisha is really a little genius, brilliant as a talker and mistress of the art of dancing. But she knows that the Westerner does not understand her classical dancing and singing, and she is so refined and charming that she will not allow you to feel you are ignorant, but will instantly begin to amuse you in some way that she thinks you will enjoy and understand.

"She will, perhaps, unfold paper and draw rapid character sketches of birds and fish, or dance a sort of spirited dance that she feels will entertain you. But if, by good fortune, you can over-persuade a geisha to show you a classical dance, as I have done, the sight is one you will never forget—the slow, dignified movements, the placing of the foot and the hand, the exquisite curves and poses of the body, forming a different picture every second.

"There is no rushing about, no accordion skirts and high kick. Sometimes, if the geisha finds that you appreciate her fine work, she will give you imitations of the dancing done on our Western stage, and, although it is funny and makes you smile, the contrast to the more classical Japanese dancing strikes you forcibly.

"One never dines out or is entertained in Japan," went on the American woman, "without the geisha forming a prominent part of the entertainment. In fact, she herself decorates the room where you dine, just as a flower or a picture would decorate our dining-rooms at home.

"And there is nothing more typical of the decorative sense innate in the Japanese than the little garden of geisha girls which almost invariably forms the background of every tea house dinner. The dinner itself, with its pretty doll tables, its curious assortment of dainty vases set in red lacquer bowls, its quaint formalities, and the magnificent ceremonial customs of the hosts, is an artistic scheme elaborately thought out and prepared.

"But when, at the close, the troupe of geishas and maikos appears—forming, as it were, a pattern of gorgeous tropical flowers—the scene becomes a bit of decoration, as original and whimsically beautiful as one can well think of. The colors of kimonos, obis, fans and head ornaments blend, contrast and produce a carefully arranged harmony."—New York Tribune.

WOMEN AND THEIR WAYS

Florence Nightingale is over eighty years old.

Mme. Lillian Nordica's real name is Norton, and she comes of an old New England family.

Miss Alice Roosevelt is depicted in German papers as a school girl with hair down her back.

Mme. Calve several years ago designed and bought the monument which is to cover her grave.

Queen Margherita of Italy is about to visit Jerusalem, and make a tour of the sacred places in Palestine.

Mrs. Martha Harwood, ninety-three years old, of St. Louis, Mo., clearly remembers Lafayette's visit there in 1829.

Mrs. Howard Kingcote, an English woman, does not believe in the "new woman" because she lacks physical strength.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lennon, of Bloomington, Ill., is one of the few living women whose father fought in the American Revolution.

Miss Edith Young, County Superintendent of Schools, from La Plata County, Cal., is the first woman to be elected to office from that county.

Queen Christian of Spain has a hobby for collecting playing cards. One pack made of ivory is said to have belonged to Prince Eugene, who fought with the Great Duke of Marlborough.

Miss Susan M. Hallowell, professor of botany for the past twenty-seven years at Wellesley College, has tendered her resignation. Her retirement withdraws from the faculty ranks the last member who served in the opening year of 1875.

CLEANINGS FROM THE SHOPS

The new colors are unsurpassingly soft. Velle is one of the smartest spring fabrics. Elaborate trimming effects amount almost to a craze.

A pendant something is a prominent feature of the back of many spring hats. The shirt waist suit will be far and away the most popular "tail" suit of the season.

A very pronounced roll and flare, very noticeable in the brims of the swaggar hat shapes. White lace has quite relegated the eern and Arabian tints to obscurity as far as fashion goes.

SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL

The new light-ship for Diamond Shoal off Hatteras is furnished with electrical apparatus designed to send a perpendicular pillar of light high into the sky directly over the vessel. It is hoped that this light may be visible from the decks of ship thirty or forty miles away at sea, whereas the mast-head lights can be seen only thirteen miles away. If this form of beacon proves successful, it will be adopted for other signal stations.

The bee lives by its tongue, with which organ it is able to extract the honey from flowers. Now, a bee's tongue is naturally about a twenty-fifth of an inch long. Clever bee-keepers, by keeping only those bees with naturally long tongues, have succeeded in lengthening the tongues of a number of bee colonies to the extent of another hundredth of an inch. It does not sound much, but it enables those insects to do a quarter as much work again in the same time.

The German Society for the Study of Electric Railways has lately experimented upon speed, and in some of its trials 100 to 105 miles per hour was attained. The air resistance was found to be equivalent to the force of wind with a velocity of twelve feet per second. This is a velocity which has only once been reached by German storms, namely, in the hurricane of February, 1894. The experimenters are confident that speeds much exceeding 100 miles per hour can be maintained on electric railways.

The keepers of the big cobras in the Central Park Menagerie and the New York Zoological Garden do not find it easy to supply their venomous charges with the kind of food that they specially prefer. In their native land cobras live chiefly on smaller and less dangerous and objectionable snakes, but although every effort is made to collect harmless snakes to satisfy the appetite of the imprisoned cobras, at some seasons they have to be content with rats and mice, which they do not particularly like. Other varieties of captive snakes are fed mainly on toads, lizards and rabbits. English sparrows are also purchased for them.

Professor Hugo Seeliger of Munich, remarks that the observed fact that "new stars" are nearly all situated in, or very close to, the Milky Way, agrees with all that we know of the construction of the heavens. We may admit a priori that the frequency of the occurrence of new stars is directly proportional to the stellar density of the different regions, especially if this frequency results from collisions between cosmic masses, as there is good reason to believe. His calculations founded upon such hypotheses show that three-fourths of the new stars ought to appear in the neighborhood of the Milky Way and the observed situations of the fifteen new stars which have appeared during the past three centuries agree with the calculation.

One interesting feature of the modern electric hydraulic power plant at the Government Arsenal at Rock Island is the electrical heating system in the power house. Despite its commercial life of more than a decade, electric heating in large plants is still enough of a novelty to attract attention. At the Rock Island Arsenal there are twenty-five radiators distributed throughout the building. Each radiator is composed of three asbestos covered frames, wound with coiled iron wire. The current consumption of each radiator is equivalent to four horsepower. Proper switches enable the heaters to be put in and out as desired, and the amount of heat given out by each radiator to be controlled. Experience has shown that with this equipment a very comfortable temperature can be maintained even in cold weather and the frequent opening of doors.

The "Men of Mind." A French writer has recently published a book made up of the "opinions on life" of French girls between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one. He wrote to hundreds of these young girls living in Paris as well as in the provincial towns and received replies from many.

Referring to Madame de Staël's saying that she would not want to open her window if it gave on to the Bay of Naples, but would walk five hundred leagues to talk to a man of mind she did not know, one girl airily declares: "If I had a window looking out on the Bay of Naples I would open it and look out. And if at a hundred leagues further on I dwell a 'man of mind,' I would go two hundred leagues further off to avoid his acquaintance, for 'men of mind' are like pictures, they gain from a distant view."

Fourteenth Century Tapestry. A magnificent example of late fourteenth century tapestry is just now to be seen in the Tapestry Court of the Victoria and Albert Museum. It comes from Hardwick Hall, the Duke of Devonshire's Chesterfield seat, where it has for years lain in pieces and in somewhat dilapidated condition. The material has been skillfully repaired and pieced together, and it now represents a picture, about thirty-five feet in length, illustrating some of the sports of the period named—otter hunting, bear hunting, swan-feeding, etc.—The Yorkshire Post.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS

PASSING OF THE PARLOR.

And is it true? Is the parlor doomed? Must it give way to the living room? That apartment cannot make good the loss of the other. Who does not remember the darkened glories of the old-fashioned parlor, which was seen at its best in the middle-sized town, village and country? Shut up the week through, sometimes nearly the year through, with blinds closed tight and lace curtains tied primly back; with its hair-cloth-seated chairs set in a line against the wall; a "rocker" ready to gallop in one corner, and a what-not in the other, ornamented with rice baskets, praying Samuels and family daguerotypes and photographs; a centre table, set exactly in the middle of the room, with a few handsome books and the large family Bible, the mantel-piece with vases filled with crystallized grasses at either end, and odds of strange things fitting up the rest of the space; who among the elder generation does not know it well? It was a room to be venerated.

And now—sadly recognizes it to be, indeed, a thing of the past. Instead, there is the living room, that actually is a living room, where the baby's perambulator stands near the piano, where the work basket is on a convenient table (no one ever saw a work basket in a parlor); where there are plants, a writing desk; where the sun pours in as much as it may. It is indeed a living room. If one has space there is a reception room, to be sure; but every one understands that amounts to little—the caller and the friend are shown into the living room. To a person used to a parlor, no matter how long ago, a call in a living room hardly seems like the solemn function it used to be.—Springfield Republican.

All Sorts of Sofa Pillows.

The sofa pillow has a wider latitude, perhaps, in the household than almost any other furnishing. It contributes to the general comfort, fills up all sorts of hollows in chairs, sofas and seats, gives just the right touches of color to corners otherwise sombre, and brings into harmony warlike surroundings. The revival of ribbon work is making possible especially exquisite effects on satins. A pillow just finished is made of white satin, embroidered with ribbon in a Dresden design. It is finished with a broad white satin ruffle, on which the delicate colors of the floral pattern are repeated in frilled rows of the tiny ribbon. Only on drawing-room pillows now are ruffles often seen. Others are left plain on the edges, have their corners drawn in, are finished with cord or have pompons at the corners. Pompons are also used in more ornamental kinds.

There are fabrics of every sort and to fit every kind of a need and purse in pillow coverings. Cottons and linens always find favor for bedrooms and other places where it is desirable to wash them occasionally, and for these nothing can be better suited than the printed chintz, with its dainty and quaint patterns.—New York Tribune.

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES

Broast of Veal—Select a four or five pound piece (sufficient for two days) and have the market man neatly bone it, and all with a rich bread stuffing. Roll and tie the meat before roasting, and cook for an hour and three-quarters. Veal should always be well cooked. Serve with very tart apples sliced and steamed until tender. Care, but do not pare, using four medium-sized apples.

Dutch Apple Pudding—Beat two eggs; add to them one cup of milk and two cupfuls of sifted flour; add one teaspoonful of baking powder; turn the mixture into a shallow baking pan; have ready two apples pared and quartered; lay them in the batter round side up; dust the top thickly with granulated sugar and sprinkle over a little cinnamon, and put in a moderately quick oven twenty minutes; serve hot with cream.

Lafayette Rolls—One pint of milk, one cup homemade yeast, flour enough to make a stiff batter; let rise, over night; in the morning add one egg, one tablespoonful of butter and flour enough to make it stiff to roll. Mix it well and let it rise, then knead again (to make it fine and white), roll it out, butter it, cut with a round cutter and fold over; put in a buttered pan and cover closely. Set in a warm place until they are very light; bake quickly and you will have delicious rolls.

Princess Potato—Peel and wash four potatoes; put them into boiling water and cook until tender; pour off the water and rub the potatoes through a sieve; season with salt and pepper and moisten with hot milk enough to back the potato; put into a buttered shallow pan and when thoroughly cold turn out; cut into strips three inches long and one inch wide; dip in melted butter, then in beaten egg; place in a buttered pan and brown in a quick oven; serve on a hot platter.