THE LEDGER.

THURSDAY, DEC. 2, 1886.

BURIED TREASURE.

A Cuban Refugee Hides a Fortune in a New York Park.

His Checkered Career After His Flight and Subsequent Return to Havana—A Romantic Story Whose Truth Is Vouched For by a Reputable Firm.

[N. Y. World.]

The attempts from time to time to locate the spot where Captain Kidd buried his ill-gotten gains, and the unearthing of acre after acre of real estate with the hope of coming across the treasure chest of the illustrious pirate, is familiar to all. The scene of the search for gold is likely to be transferred to Central Park with the publication of the following romantic story. A firm of reputable lawyers in Broadway will vouch for the truth of this story:

At the end of the year 1879 or 1880 Senor Don Juan Alvarez (the name is fictitious, as the attorneys for the family deem it judicious to withhold the real name until the mystery is cleared up), a descendant of one of the oldest and noblest families of Spain, then living in Havana, was the leader of one of the revolutionary parties of Cuba. Its chief aim was to overthrow Spanish dominion and to make the island of Cuba independent of the mother country. A well-conceived revolutionary movement was being quietly prepared when Alvarez, betrayed at the last moment by a confederate to the Spanish police, was forced to fly for his life. With the assistance of his political friends he managed to leave the island disguised as a steward on board of an out-going pleasure yacht belonging to an English nobleman. As soon as his flight became known all his fortune and real estate were confiscated by the police.

Alvarez was of a philosophical nature and felt but little disheartened at this misfortune. He remained on board the yacht, whose owner was ignorant of the rank and title of his steward, for many months, traveling around the world, when, finally, tired of his new life, he left the English lord when the yacht touched at Alexandria, Egypt, and there obtained the position of intendant to a rich Turkish merchant. In this capacity he remained as satisfied as ever, when a new incident occurred in his eventful career.

Arabi-Bey made his *coup d'etat*; the English bombarded Alexandria, which, before its surrender, was pillaged by the natives. During the pillage Alvarez's life was spared, but his master, the Turkish merchant, was killed, his house ransacked and every object of value contained in it stolen. When the English re-entered the town and order was again restored Alvarez found himself safe but penniless; his earnings, which he had accumulated since he left Havana, having been stolen, together with the merchant's money.

Alvarez remembered that the merchant, at the beginning of the bombardment, had gone down to the cellar and remained there a long time. The idea suggested to him was that the merchant, who was very wealthy, might have hidden a part of his fortune in the cellar. Watching his opportunity, Alvarez went down to the cellar, and, after searching, found a tin box containing gold pieces and notes of the Bank of England, which, all together, were worth, in American money, about one hundred and thirty thousand dollars. This he appropriated, knowing that the merchant had no relatives, and then, being again the owner of a fortune, his mind turned to his own country, to Havana, where, before leaving, he had left a young senorita to whom he was engaged.

He left for London and from there took passage for New York. Arriving in this city, he immediately made arrangements to go to Havana. His fortune he had until then carried in a belt around his waist, but on the eve of his departure for Havana he thought it imprudent to carry so much money to a country from which he had gone as a fugitive, and where, if recognized, although now somewhat changed in appearance, he would undoubtedly be arrested. He knew from experience that if this was done his money would be confiscated. Distrustful by nature, and not knowing a soul in New York, he went to the only public place he knew—Central Park—and there buried his fortune, which amounted to $110,000.

The next day Alvarez sailed for Cuba, where, as he had feared, he was recognized, arrested and the money he had about him, nearly $20,000, confiscated. The authorities placed him in jail, fixing his ransom at $30,000.

The young girl to whom he had been engaged learned of his return, and visited him several times in the prison. He related to her his adventures, and they concluded the best thing for them to do was for her to go to New York, with the necessary instructions, to unearth the money buried in the park, bring it to Cuba, pay his ransom, and together they would leave the country with the remainder of their fortune. But, as she knew nothing about New York or, in fact, a word of English, Alvarez resolved to write to a gentleman well known in this city and whose reputation is equally as well known in Havana, and ask him to escort her during her stay in this city, promising for his trouble a liberal remuneration.

This was done and shortly thereafter a favorable reply came from the responsible New York citizen. In the correspondence between Alvarez and the lawyer which was shown the reporter, though the fact of the money he buried was stated, no mention or clue was given as to the spot, Alvarez evidently not caring to intrust the secret to any one except the young lady. All arrangements were made for the young lady's departure and her reception in this city, when Alvarez, who had contracted a malignant disease in Egypt, and whose treatment in the Cuban prison was almost barbarous, died suddenly before he could reveal to his sweetheart the hiding-place of his fortune. After his death a thorough search was made among his effects in the hope of finding some information which might lead to the discovery of the money. A trunk, which had been seized by the Cuban police, contained several plans and diagrams supposed to have some reference to the hiding place in Central Park. This fact coming to the ears of a few of Alvarez's friends, a sufficient amount of money was paid to purchase the trunk, and a fuller explanation of the drawings revealed them to be a plan of the fortifications about Havana. All further attempts proving futile, the hope of ever securing the money was abandoned, and in all likelihood will always remain so.

In concluding this strange story of Alvarez's wealth, it might be well to state that the park police have been given strict orders to arrest any one seen entering the park with a pick or shovel.

STRANGER THAN FICTION.

The Peculiar Story Developed in a Pennsylvania Register's Office.

[Reading (Pa.) Special.]

A strange story was developed in County Register Strunk's office recently when Judith Pauley, a lady seventy years old, set forth by petition that after forty years had elapsed she discovered at last that her husband, whom she had mourned as dead during all that time, was not dead, but that he had been living within fifty miles of her all the time entirely unknown to her.

Samuel W. Pauley and his wife, the above-named Judith, resided at Allentown forty years ago. They had several children. When the Mexican war broke out Pauley enlisted and was a brave soldier. Some one must have maliciously written to him while he was absent that his wife and babes had died and when the Mexican campaign was over Pauley, dreading to go back to his old home to find only the graves of his dear ones, located at Womelsdorf, a small town fifty miles away, where he lived until he died.

His wife continued living at Allentown, and with her children concluded that husband and father had perished in Mexico. Hence it was that for forty years they lived within fifty miles of each other, each thinking the other dead.

Pauley, believing himself a widower, married again and raised a family of children. Recently he died, aged seventy years, and his estate was worth over five thousand dollars. Letters of administration were granted to Joseph Heisinger, who married a daughter by the second marriage. In the newspapers the original Mrs. Pauley, who had never married again, read of the old Mexican soldier's death, and her curiosity was aroused. She sent a man to Womelsdorf to inquire into the matter, and to her great surprise learned that it was her own husband who had just died.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Hon. S. S. Cox on the Probabilities of a Great European War.

[N. Y. World.]

In an interview Hon. S. S. Cox said the grandest educational institution in Turkey was the American College. The students are principally Bulgarians, with a sprinkling of Americans, Greeks and other nationalities. The lessons of popular and personal liberty, as illustrated in America, are taught therein. Many of the alumni, especially from Bulgaria, have leavened the dough of Bulgarian politics. These students have been the master minds in the recent movements in Bulgaria by which Prince Alexander attained prominence. I am very much mistaken if Russia will not find it a very difficult matter to overwhelm this popular element. Now how this question may be settled without involving Europe in a gigantic war is a difficult problem to solve. The English Minister who foiled the attempt of Russia after Prince Alexander's annexation of Eastern Roumelia to Bulgaria in September, 1885, was Sir William White. When I left Constantinople the Russian and German Ambassadors, who dread the coming of Sir William White, were moving heaven and earth and the powers under the earth to prevent his reception by the Sultan. If Turkey should throw herself under the ægis of Russia she would pursue a suicidal policy; if Russia is allowed to establish her influence in Bulgaria and Roumelia, the independence of Turkey is at an end.

The first move of the Czar's Government will be the election and confirmation of a Prince entirely devoted to the Czar and his policy. The next will be the appointment of Russian officers to all the important offices, both civil and military, and those who show the most offensive partisanship will get the best offices. When every thing is ready for action Russia will find herself south of the Balkans on the undefended frontiers of Turkey, with a safe line of communication with Odessa by Borgoes and Varna. If the Panathes treaty of San Stefano is signed it will not be followed by a treaty of Berlin. A Russian paper says that the Bulgarian army must be the advance guard of the Russian in the East. Bulgaria, whether she likes it or not, will be compelled to follow implicitly the directions given by her to the Czar in all her relations with Turkey, as well as with the other powers. If Russia finds these interests confronted by resistance on the part of the Bulgarian people, the consequences will be disastrous to peace in the East, and whatever is the end of the impending struggle Turkey will come out of it shorn of more territory. The English press and the English people see with dismay the crumbling of Great Britain's influence. The Duke of Edinburgh has recently been received by the Sultan at his palace at Glidez, but so long as England stays in Egypt those receptions do not mean much.

If Russia, however, gets her grip over the barrier of the Balkans, which she may do if she gets control of Bulgaria and Roumelia, she has but one more step to take in order to reach the ancient town of Adrianople, and it is but another step to the splendid capital on the Bosphorus. But will Germany and Austria, siding with England and Italy, allow this aggressive advance? This is the old, old problem, known as the "Eastern question," ever occurring and never settled. The Crimean war failed to settle it. It involves a contest for supremacy in Asia. The Afghan dispute about boundaries and the English power in India depends on its solution. It may almost in a moment be determined by a battle. The vast sums which India and Russia, not to speak of other powers, are spending on railroads and other communications in the East show to some extent the magnitude of the coming contest. The perfecting of armaments by land and sea, all sorts of inventions for the wholesale destruction of life, the collection of vast bodies of men upon these Eastern frontiers, signify a conflagration unexampled in the history of man.

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THE WAR SERIES,

which has been followed with unflagging interest by a great audience, will occupy less space during the coming year. Gettysburg will be described by Gen. Hunt, (Chief of the Union Artillery), Gen. Longstreet, Gen. E. M. Law, and others; Chickamauga, by Gen. D. H. Hill; Sherman's March to the Sea, by Generals Howard and Slocum. Generals Q. A. Gillmore, Wm. F. Smith, John Gibbon, Horace Porter and John S. Mosby will describe special battles and incidents. Stories of naval engagements, prison life, etc., etc., will appear.

NOVELS AND STORIES.

"The Hundredth Man," a novel by Frank R. Stockton, author of "The Lady, or the Tiger?" etc., begins in November. Two novelettes by George W. Cable, stories by Mary Hallock Foote, "Uncle Remus," Julian Hawthorne, Edward Eggleston, and other prominent American authors will be printed during the year.

SPECIAL FEATURES

(with illustrations) include a series of article on affairs in Russia and Siberia, by George Kennan, author of "Tent Life in Siberia," who has just returned from a most eventful visit to Siberian prisons; papers on the Food Question, with reference to its bearing on the Labor Problem; English Cathedrals, Dr. Eggleston's Religious Life in the American Colonies; Men and Women of Queen Anne's Reign, by Mrs. Oliphant; Clairvoyance, Spiritualism, Astrology, etc., by the Rev. J. M. Buckley, D. D., editor of the Christian Advocate; astronomical papers, articles throwing light on Bible history, etc.

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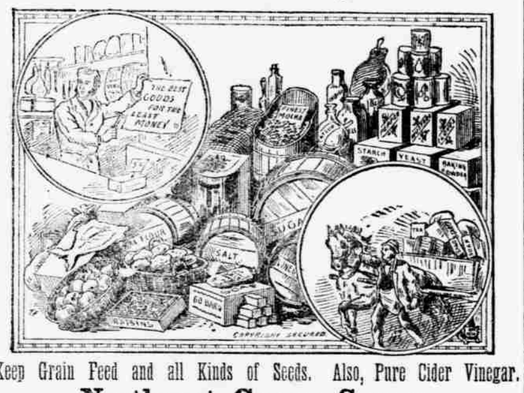

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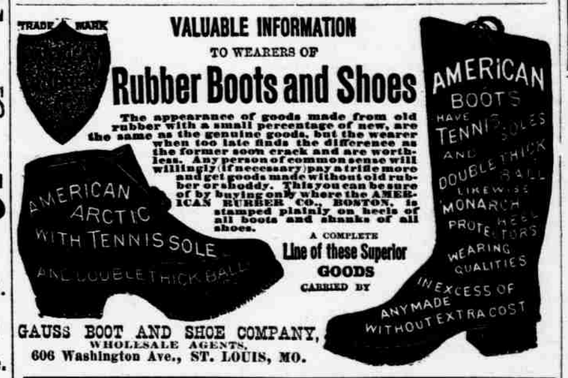

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