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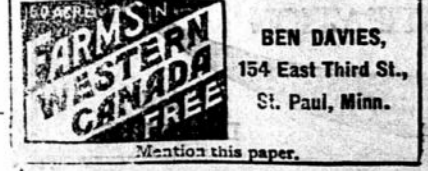
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## FIERCE NAVAL FIGHT

THE WYOMING'S HEROIC BATTLE WITH THE JAPANESE.

Against Overwhelming Odds the American Commander McDugall Fought One of the Most Daring and Successful Engagements in the History of Marine Warfare.

Strange as it may seem, the Wyoming's oriental battle is an almost unrecorded chapter of our naval annals, though it ranks even higher in point of daring and success against overwhelming odds than the defeat of the Alabama by the Wyoming's sister ship, the Kearsarge. But the Wyoming never was in very great luck as a naval star. She had her part throughout the civil war in all the hardest of blockading and cruising service, and fought well whenever she had the chance, but she did not have the luck of getting into the papers. She was sent off at the same time as the Kearsarge to cruise for that scourge of the seas, the Alabama, and just missed her by the merest chance on two occasions in the China seas.

It was in 1863, toward the end of the dual reign of the tycoon and the mikado, when Japan was in the throes of civil war, and the forces of the rebel princes were resisting to the last the passing of the old feudal system. The Prince of Nagato was one of these, and from his tiny kingdom that fronted on the straits of Simonoseki he declared himself lord paramount of everything in sight, including the neighboring seas, from which he took generous toll as did over the pirate chiefs of Tarifa. He had laid violent hands and hot shot upon the vessels of various powers, including Great Britain, France, the Netherlands and the United States.

Meantime Prince Nagato threw and flourished by the strait of Simonoseki, and failing one day to wring tribute or blackmail by any other means he fired on the American merchantman Pembroke and killed a couple of her crew. There was another diplomatic protest of the combined foreign representatives to the Japanese government, and Commander McDugall, who happened to be in port with the Wyoming, suggested that if the mikado could not take a fall out of his rebellious subject the Wyoming could and would without much urging. This struck the government as a good thing and an easy way out of the international difficulty, so McDugall was given carte blanche to settle accounts with the Prince of Nagato in behalf of all the powers concerned, and he forthwith sailed away.

It was the middle of July when the Wyoming found herself in the strait of Simonoseki and in sight of the shore batteries which were a part of the prince's defenses to seaward. Before she had time to open on the batteries two Japanese gunboats loomed up, one ahead and one astern, in the narrow strait, and presently a third came cruising out from among the neighboring islands. It was a nasty place for a fight, McDugall being without charts or pilots, and the odds were more than enough for Nelson himself, being 48 guns of the three Japanese vessels to the 26 of the old Wyoming, to say nothing of the batteries on shore. There was still a chance to run, barring some danger of grounding in the narrow channels among the islands, but the idea does not seem to have occurred to any one aboard the frigate.

Working to windward of the nearest Japanese, the Wyoming opened at long range and worked down on her till, when close aboard, there was nothing of the enemy left standing above decks. The other two vessels had come up in the meantime and engaged the American on either side, but she lay to and gave them shot for shot, port and starboard, till her gunners were smoke blind and the flame of the guns no longer served to light the battlefield that rolled in white billows over the smooth waters of the strait. It was desperate work in the shallow water, but the Wyoming was the best vessel, and she outmaneuvered her two opponents from start to finish, though twice aground and once afire, with as many men knocked out from splinters and heat as from the enemy's shot.

Fighting themselves out of one smoke patch into another, the three combatants circled around like two crows and a kingbird till they had drifted down in range of the shore batteries, which gayly took a hand in the game. But McDugall ran across the bows of one of his enemies, raked her as he went and left her a floating wreck, and then turned his attention to the batteries. The Wyoming's men rigged the smith's forge on deck and tossed hot shot into the works ashore till they set them afire and the soldiers fled, and the other Japs on the remaining cruiser, deciding enough was as good as a feast, followed their example.

So McDugall mended his rigging and patched his bulwarks, and meanwhile sent word to the recalcitrant prince to come down and settle or he would sail inland and shell the royal palace about its royal owner's ears. The prince, who was no less discreet than Colonel Crockett's coon, came down promptly, and of the resulting indemnity \$300,000 fell to the lot of the United States. It was many years before this money got into the treasury of the United States, but meantime the state department had charge of it and had invested it so well that there was a very little short of \$2,000,000 finally turned over to the government, which, after all, was pretty good pay for one day's fighting, with a loss of only five killed and six wounded.—Washington Post.

**Misunderstood.**  
Doctor—I just met your wife. That medicine I sent her by you seems to have benefited her greatly.  
Dumley—Sent her? Why, doctor, I thought you said that was for me, and I was in the hospital a week after I took it.—Richmond Dispatch.

## FATE OF THE SHIP'S PET.

A Fourth of July Celebration Which Ended in Disaster.

"That billygoat the boys had for a mascot on the New York," remarked the paymaster's clerk, "suggests a monkey that my father used to tell me about that they had on a frigate in the times before the war. This monkey the sailors had picked up somewhere in the Indian ocean countries."

"The ship was stationed in the China ports for a year, and during that time the monkey was the light and joy of the whole crew. When the Fourth of July came around, permission was asked from the harbor authorities of the port where they were to fire a salute, and preparations were made for doing it in style. The regular salute was fired, and then it was proposed that the crew sing 'The Star Spangled Banner' and fire a gun for chorus. The gun was loaded and everything was left ready while the crew went to the main deck, where something to drink the health of the nation was to be served before the song was sung, and the gunner was to be sent back to shoot off the chorus."

"The programme was carried out to the letter. Then the men scattered, and somebody thought of the monkey. But he was not to be found. The cook hadn't seen him, nor had the cook's boy, nor would he respond to any of the calls that usually brought him flying. What had become of him no one knew until 6 o'clock, when a boat's crew went ashore to a big spring for water. The ship lay off from this spring about a quarter of a mile, and over it was a big shade tree. When the men came to the spring, they noticed in the branches of the tree something that had a familiar look to it, and knocking it out with sticks and stones they found the pink nose of their poor little pet attached to a few shreds and patches of monkey skin."

"That told the story of the disappearance of Mug, the monkey. He had in a spirit of sport chased himself into the mouth of that saluting cannon and when they fired it Mug went ashore."—Washington Star.

## LINCOLN ESCAPED.

A Vain Attempt to Inoculate Him With Smallpox in 1861.

During the exciting period of 1861 great fears were entertained for the safety of the president, and every precaution was taken to insure his personal protection.

One morning there appeared at the White House a woman, closely veiled, demanding an immediate interview with Mr. Lincoln. Approaching Messenger Perkins, who guarded the door of Mr. Lincoln's private office, the visitor made known her request and pleaded earnestly that she be admitted to a personal interview. The doorkeeper's orders were, however, very strict, and finding her eloquence all in vain she finally compromised by confiding her message to the courteous but firm employee. Taking him to one side, the veiled lady seized both his hands in hers and tenderly rubbed them as she extracted a promise that he would immediately deliver her request to the president. Perkins was almost overcome by a most peculiar odor that appeared to emanate from his companion and hastened to get rid of her without creating a scene.

No sooner had he accomplished this than he confided to one of the official household the effect produced upon him while in conversation with the important visitor. A physician who was present promptly divined the truth and instituted a search for the woman, when it was learned that she had driven rapidly away in a carriage, and all trace was lost. Perkins was immediately ordered to return to his home and await developments.

Within the usual period he was taken ill with one of the worst cases of virulent smallpox on record, and for weeks lay at the point of death. Upon his recovery the faithful messenger, whose devotion to duty doubtless saved the life of the president, was appointed by Mr. Lincoln to a permanent position on the clerical force of the war department.—Washington Post.

## One of the Mean Ones.

A worthy old Gentleman in the Country, having employed an Attorney, of whom he had a pretty good opinion, to do some Law Business for him in London, he was greatly surprised on his coming to Town, and demanding his Bill of Law Charges, to find that it amounted to at least three Times the Sum he expected; the honest Attorney assured him that there was no Article in his Bill but what was fair and reasonable: Nay, said the Country Gentleman, here is one of them I am sure cannot be so, for you have set down three Shillings and four Pence for going to Southwark, when none of my Business lay that Way; pray what is the Meaning of that Sir? Oh! Sir, said he, that was for fetching the China and Turkey from the Carriers, that you sent me for a Present, out of the Country.—"Joe Miller's Jest Book," 1739.

## Consideration.

Clerk—I have been in your employ now going on five years, and I am getting the same salary I started with.

Proprietor—I know it, but every time that I've made up my mind to cut you down or discharge you something has reminded me of your wife and little ones at home, and so I just couldn't do it. There, my man, you see I have a heart as well as a head.—Chicago News.

The mushroom's life is measured by hours, but it flourishes long enough for an insect to hang its egg on the edge of the "umbrella" and for the egg to become an insect ready to colonize the next "silver button" that pushes up.

## OUR DEBT TO BUMBLEBEES.

The Part These Busy Workers Play in the Fertilization of Flowers.

Barney Hoskin Standish writes an article on "The Bumblebee" for St. Nicholas. Mr. Standish says: The work of the bumblebee in bringing about the cross fertilization of flowers is as important as that of the honeybee, and these two stand at the head of the list of insects useful in this respect. Each has its flowers which it alone visits, but there are many flowers on neutral ground visited by both. So we may say of the bumblebee, as of the honeybee, the more bumblebees the more seeds; the more seeds the more flowers—especially wild flowers, as the tall bellflower, touch me not, Solomon's seal, gentian, Dutchman's breeches and turtle head. But probably the most important work this insect does for agriculture is upon the fields of red clover. There is abundant proof that this plant will not produce seed without the co-operation of the bumblebee. It is impossible for the wind to bring about the fertilization of the seed, as it may do in the case of Indian corn, grain and some forest trees. The tube of red clover blossoms, too, is so long that other insects (including the honeybee) are not regular visitors.

Here is proof that this plant must have visits from the bumblebee. This insect is not a native of Australia, and red clover failed to produce seed there until bumblebees were imported. As soon as they became numerous the plant could be depended upon for seed. Again, the blossoms of the first crop of the Medium Red clover of our own country are just as perfect as those of the second crop, but there are too few bumblebees in the field, so early in the season, to produce fertilization, hence little or no seed in this crop. If bumblebees were sufficiently numerous, there is no reason why much larger yields of clover seed might not be expected than at present.

Here is what a well informed farmer says about it:

"It was formerly thought that the world rested on the shoulders of Atlas. I can prove that its prosperity rests on the bumblebee. The world cannot prosper without the farmers' product. The farm will not be productive without clover. We cannot raise clover without seed, and we cannot have clover seed without the bumblebee, because it is this insect that carries the pollen from flower to flower, securing its development and continuance. Let us learn to know and to protect our friends."

## TWO WAYS OF LOOKING.

If All Saw Things Alike, This Would Be an Uninteresting World.

"It is a pity that more of us cannot cultivate the twofold way of looking at things," writes Edward W. Bok in The Ladies Home Journal. "There would be less friction in life if we did, and sweeter sympathy, kinder understanding and broader and fuller living. The fact is that we never reach the dignity of true living unless we do learn this all important lesson. And that it may be cultivated admits of no doubt. It is simply a question of schooling ourselves not to condemn generally what individually does not happen to be to our taste. If, for example, we prefer brown as a color, there is no reason on earth why we should condemn the taste of any one who preferred to wear green. What the vast majority of us need is to be a little more self poised, more judicious, more willing to see good in the tastes of others, although they do not please our own particular fancies. It we all thought alike, read the same books, saw the same plays, wore the same colors, this would be an exceedingly uninteresting world."

"We cannot see all things in the same way, but we can come near to justice and true respect by taking a twofold view of things while still retaining our strong individual views. Seeing a possible good or use for everything does not necessarily mean a weak individuality. The most uncomfortable people in the world are those who assert their judgments in a hard, decisive and final manner, as if they were courts of last resort. On the other hand, the brightest and best minds are those that have most respect for the opinions of others."

## Remenyi and Pumpernickel.

"My first meeting with Remenyi," says H. J. Cleveland, "was over a livery stable in Council Bluffs. A concert hall was there and he was to play. A jackass in a stall beneath persistently brayed. Remenyi would not play. I was on my way to Japan, or thought I was, and introduced myself to him after his audience had been dismissed. He begged of me to find some pumpernickel for him. I searched Pearl street resorts until I found some and took it to his room. He ate with satisfaction and then played for me, played until, boy as I was, I cried. That was at 2 o'clock in the morning, and in a large hotel filled with people. We had the halls filled with people in their nightrobes before that private concert ended. His love for pumpernickel was no more strange than that of Janaschek for stale beer, and I have got many a pint of that for her after a most thrilling depiction of Mary, queen of Scots."—Chicago Times-Herald.

## Sensible.

"Who is that I see you feeding nearly every night in the kitchen, Mollie?"

"That's my intended, the policeman, ma'am."

"Well, if he's your intended, why don't you marry him?"

"I'm waitin till his appetite goes down a bit, ma'am."—Yonkers Statesman.

## A Pleasant Anniversary.

Mr. Franktown—Spiffins' birthday comes next week. Let's give a smoker in his honor.

Mr. Larimer—That's the very thing. Spiffins doesn't use cigars and can't bear the smell of tobacco.—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

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