

OLE BULL AT CROOKSTON.

A STORY OF EARLY LIFE IN MINNESOTA BY W. L. S.

AMATEUR AND ARTIST MEET.

How a Fairly Good Northwestern Fiddler Sought to Teach the Greatest of Violinists. "Home, Sweet Home," "The Carnival of Venice," as Never Before Heard in Crookston.

From Gable's Magazine for January. The supreme moments of the few spirits not chained to earth are moments of solitude. They are reached only in mature years, when technique



OLE BULL.

has lost its terrors and ambition has been satisfied. It is then the mind reaches out with overwhelming earnestness to read the meaning of life through a profound sense of contact with the Infinite. It is only the sensitive, artistic spirit of a genius that can draw a nourishment from the atmosphere of inspiration while his feet have worn a pathway through the rocks of self-discipline, that can wander at times among the fascinations of that boundary land which lies between the here, that repels and deadens, and there, that invites and quickens. To be a witness and, in a small measure, a sharer in such an uplifting on the part of a great musician, was once the privilege of a friend who so vividly impressed me, when relating the story, with his keen appreciation of a singularly beautiful incident, that not a detail has escaped my memory in the thirty years that have elapsed since its first recital. It was in the fall of 1857, Northern Minnesota, as yet but little influenced by the advance of civilization, was celebrating its autumnal maturity by an unusually rich display of color. The trees had caught, and were glowing, for the season, the brilliant crimson and gold with which the sun had mocked their sombre green in his many risings and settings; the sky seemed to hover nearer the earth with its benediction of fresh, overshowering blue; the air was ripe and inviting, suggesting health and action; the abundant forests sheltered game in great variety. It was to the gratification of the love of sport, with its glimpse into the heart of a great wilderness, that the small town at Crookston was taxed to its utmost to accommodate the sportsmen who had resorted thither. It was evening when the mail coach drew up to a halt at the station, and a passenger, his appearance and manner were in no sense contradictory. The unconscious droiler, characteristic of the successful Yankee, was an immediate passport to the comradeship of his fellows. When he was speaking, his perspicacious delivery, and the sympathetic activity of his restless blue eyes caught and held the attention with irresistible power. We will call him Langdon. He was an inventor, and had won the prize of a competency by an ingenious invention, and, possessing a naturally artistic temperament, was traveling a share of his income in travel, with pleasure and culture as prominent and hence; he was a liberal patron of the art, and had been found an enthusiastic auditor wherever exceptional performances were accessible. This brief survey of the traveler is important only as it bears upon the incidents following, which in his opportunities had, in a measure, fitted him more fully to enjoy.

A small valise and gun were his only luggage. As he entered the commodious room which served for office, reading-room and barroom, his countenance fell at the sight of the unusually large number of sportsmen present. He looked ill for his securing comfortable accommodations.

Approaching the tavern-keeper, who was putting fresh logs on the fire, he said: "Good evening, colonel. Trade is good, isn't it? Want can you do for

most either turn in with you or sleep in the barn with the cattle." Without a moment's hesitation the bolt flew back, and the door opened. "Come in," said the gentleman to the astonished Langdon, who had already recognized the familiar form and features of Ole Bull. "You don't require much room," he said, eyeing him, with a smile of cordial hospitality. It was too late to retreat, and our Massachusetts friend found himself in familiar and congenial intercourse with a man whom he had heard many times in concert, and for whom he entertained a profound admiration. An hour passed in the exchange of entertaining reminiscences, and before they retired they had agreed upon a date for hunting together. The morning found them astray at an early hour, and after a hasty breakfast they entered the forest. Success attended them, and the day was nearly spent when, laden with game, they attempted to retrace their steps. In this they were not so successful. In their enthusiasm they had quite lost their reckoning, and neither the musical sense of one nor the mechanical skill of the other could extricate them from their difficulty. After consultation, they agreed to push forward for half an hour, and if no sign of a settlement presented itself, to build a fire and make themselves as comfortable as possible for the night. Separating to within calling distance, they proceeded through the forest, when the keen-eyed Langdon discovered a light, and with a shout summoned his friend. Upon approach, it proved to come from a dwelling in the midst of a clearing of perhaps half an acre. The house was the ordinary type of log cabin, with but one large room, a door in front and windows at either end. In the door could be seen, in the dim twilight, the figure of a man standing, gun in hand, peering anxiously into the clearing, evidently wondering who his unexpected visitors were. Ole Bull approached, and, saluting him, inquired how far they were from their tavern.

They were received with genuine cordiality by the settler, who invited them into his cabin, assuring them that reaching the tavern was out of the question until the morning, and that they were heartily welcome to such humble accommodations as he could offer them. He was a man of perhaps seventy years of age, quite bent, with wrinkled face and sunken eyes, surrounded by long white hair and beard. His striking appearance aroused some interest on the part



OLE BULL'S RESPONSE.

of his guests as to what his past history could be, and what chances of fortune had brought him to such a solitary existence. While he busied himself about preparing their supper they were collecting the contents of the room. Suspended from the walls were guns, axes, cooking utensils, etc. On a shelf at one end of the room stood a rude clock, and opposite was the head of a deer, with large antlers, from which hung clothing and skins of various kinds. Just over the neck the eyes of Ole Bull came to a pause, a playful smile lighted his face as he quietly signified his friend to notice. They hung, a violin and bow, in apparently good order, and a small table, with a few articles upon it, bore the opportunity, and said nothing. Supper was soon ready, and eaten with a relish that only a day in the woods can create, after which it was the work of a few moments to clear the table and gather about the fire with their pipes.

The conversation did not lag. Langdon entertained his companions with a sketch of the vicissitudes of an inventor's career, culminating with his own success in competition for a prize of a hundred thousand dollars, offered for the best machine to accomplish a certain work. "How long time was allowed?" asked Bull. "Twenty months," was the reply; "and the difficulty was, that I was restricted in my applications of ideas by three or four patents which were already on the market, which were fully protected by patents." Ole Bull then gave a clear description of his travels, omitting an allusion to his wife, which was noticed by his companion, who was anticipating the denouement with keen

HERBERT WILBER GREENE.

A \$100.00 Check Will pay the cost of a week's trip to Hot Springs, Ark., and return, including all necessary expenses. Tickets, sleeping car berths, meals en route and the services of a man, Park Hotel, Hot Springs, Ark. If you are contemplating such a trip, this excursion will save a neat little roll. It starts from St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn., on January 23, 1894, via the Minneapolis & St. Louis Ry. (Albert Lea Route), going via St. Louis and the Iron Mountain route. A manager will accompany the party and look after their comforts through sleepers and dining cars. The railroad will be open for ninety days, so that if any of the parties to this excursion desire to prolong their stay, they may do so at liberty to do so. Accommodations should be engaged as far ahead of the date of excursion as possible. Address any agent of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Ry., or C. M. PRATT, G. T. & P. A., Minneapolis, Minn.

Suffering in Kansas. EVANSTON, Kas., Jan. 6.—There is considerable suffering among the coal miners at Alma, caused by reason of more having been thrown out of employment than there are in the stores are owned by the same company, and the men are without any company.

Personally Conducted. Excursion to Hot Springs, Ark. will be run by the Minneapolis & St. Louis Ry. via St. Louis and the Iron Mountain route January 23, 1894, on which all expenses of the party will be paid except the cost of the sleeping car and two weeks' sojourn at Hot Springs. This arrangement will afford the best accommodations and save tourists about \$25. Inquire for rate of any agent of the M. & St. L. Ry., or C. M. PRATT, G. T. & P. A., Minneapolis, Minn.

GERMAN NEWS BUDGET.

RUSSIAN TREATY OF COMMERCE ALMOST COMPLETED.

GERMAN POWER IN AFRICA.

Herr Richter Preparing an Attack Upon the Government—Ambassador Runyon Received by Kaiser Wilhelm in Grand Style—Cartoonists Make Merry With Prince Bismarck.

[Copyright, 1894, by the Associated Press.] BERLIN, Jan. 6.—The Associated Press learns that an agreement regarding the treaty of commerce has been reached on all points but the paragraphing on the Russian side, the understanding being that this will take some time. In order to prevent further difficulties the interpretation of the treaty in the German and Russian languages will be avoided. The whole will thus be drafted in French. The only difficulty now remaining is the duration of the treaty. Russia favors a short period and Germany demands a long period. The prospects of its adoption by the reichstag have diminished. Herr Marggraf, Paasche and Burbin, three influential members of the National Liberal party, have publicly announced their intention to vote against the treaty. It is feared that others will follow their example, and as a chance of twelve votes would suffice to defeat the treaty, the impending crisis is brought nearer. For the re-assembly of the reichstag Herr Richter is preparing an attack upon the government on the subject of the treaty. The attack will be made mainly on the lines of the injudicious selection of the officials entrusted to represent German power in Africa. These officials are said to be mostly young, and without colonial experience, and the bulk of the trouble with the natives, it is claimed, originates in the

MISTAKES THEY MAKE. The raising of the American minister, the Hon. Theo. B. Runyon, to the rank of ambassador has just given rise to some comment. The appointment was caused by the emperor, who marked the occasion by driving to the embassy on New Year's morning and sending up his card, personally inviting Mr. Runyon to a reception. Mr. Runyon gave a dinner to the members of the palace in splendid style with a coachman and two footmen in blue coats, red pants and white caps. The American eagle was painted on the carriage panels and the trappings were most elaborate. This splendid display caused a great deal of curiosity among the people of Berlin, though it was not generally understood, the colors not being familiar to the inhabitants of this city.

The Hamburger Nachrichten today commenting upon Herr Count von Arnim's letter regarding Herr von Bismarck and the references to the elder von Arnim, who was charged with delaying the peace negotiations of 1871, in order to speculate with Baron Hirsch, a delay which the younger von Arnim says was due to the fact that two peace commissioners—Baron von Mantuffel and Count von Arnim—were appointed, and that the younger von Arnim was asked him to confirm a statement that this was the real cause of the delay, says that Prince Bismarck is surprised at the discourtesy of the language used in the young count's letter, adding: "But even if this obstacle to a settlement of the peace negotiations of 1871, in order to speculate with Baron Hirsch, a delay which the younger von Arnim says was due to the fact that two peace commissioners—Baron von Mantuffel and Count von Arnim—were appointed, and that the younger von Arnim was asked him to confirm a statement that this was the real cause of the delay, 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