

MID PERSIAN PERILS

THE ROUGH AND THORNY PATHS TRAVELED BY TWO ADVENTUROUS AMERICANS.

BRAVED DIRT, DANGER, DEATH.

NATIVES BROUGHT OATS FOR THE SILENT STEEDS, BUT NOT AN OAT EATEN.

THE SHAH'S LITTLE JOKE.

He Wanted to See One of the Bicyclists Break His Neck, and Almost Had His Wish.

If you look at the northwest corner of a map of Persia, you may, or you may not, find a spot marked Julfa, lying on the Armenian side of the stream Araxes. That is the place where, with two friends, I commenced a bicycle ride through the land of the Lion and the Sun.

It was a curious experience. There are no fine parks and asphalted roads in Persia. No cycle sports have ever been held there. This may be because there are no cycles. I am glad of this, for the eyes of the sons of Iran would be opened, and then they would declare the cyclists to be frauds.

Another man was peering curiously at my wheel. The pneumatic tires were a mystery. He pressed his sallow thumb on the rubber, and then blandly asked: "Sahib, is this like the heel of a man's foot? Does it get harder the more it is used?" I wished it did.

Our first day in Persia was characteristic. We had crossed the Araxes from Armenia, and we started off all right over a bumpy, bone-shaking mule track, and we rode a black goat that galloped in the center of high red cliffs.

There had been a fearful robbery in the Durades pass a few weeks before; the mule had been killed, and bars of gold and bags of money for the Persian bank had been purloined. We wondered whether the robbers would deem it worth the risk of attacking us.

We were very cold, and very hungry, and very tired. So we aroused the place, and made them find us a room. And, while we were being gazed at like wild beasts, we dined on the whole crowd out, and like some of the men. Everything was in decay. The half of every town was in ruins.

What did I see? Persia I found to be nearly all desert. The people were dirty and foul, and the women more repulsive than the men. Everything was in decay. The half of every town was in ruins.

There were some singular experiences on the road. At Tabriz we were pursued by a howling mob right through the bazaars. We saw a couple of policemen, or guards, or soldiers, or ruffians, who requested them to show us the way.

An Elgin's Usefulness

extends beyond the present generation. Its marvelous durability makes it an heirloom—always accurate. Elgin—Full Ruby Jeweled movements represent the best in time-keeping machinery.

An Elgin watch always has the word "Elgin" engraved on the works—fully guaranteed.

would every now and then swing round his horse, charge where the throng was thickest, slash wildly at anybody and everybody, and allow us to slip ahead.

At one place the news of our journey preceded us, and when we approached the town about twenty of the wealthy Persians turned out on horseback. After the customary salaams, we rode in front, and the troop danced and careered about us—a demented escort.

There were no roads, but nearly all wells-defined camel-tracks. Where the ground was hard and gritty, we spun along easily at twelve miles an hour, but when by way of a change, there was swamp, or a rock-strewn pass, then—well, we did not travel so fast.

We generally reached a village towards sundown. The houseposts—the chief places of recreation—would be crowded. A great shout went up when we were seen, and our arrival called out all the people more quickly than ever did the Pied Piper of Hamelin call out rats.

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We rather expected trouble, leaving the town; so we got a couple of mounted soldiers to see us safely beyond the town. The road on in front, bawling for a way to be cleared, slicing at people with his whip, and turning camels, donkeys and their drivers up side streets. Four or five hundred people tumbled after us, making a fearful din. We took no notice. But our rear-guard

Kush, which meant "the shoulder of death," we were lost, and spent a day and night struggling through drifts, till we felt weary and faint. By the time we reached a village the next morning, we were in a tolerably famished state, and we had been exposed to a storm, 9,000 feet up a mountain side, and had had nothing to eat for twenty hours.

To be honest, one must not describe Persia as either beautiful or romantic, or poetical. And yet, in saying this, I must make exceptions. Shiraz, "the garden of love," is an exquisite spot, renowned for its rose gardens, its oranges, its myrtle groves. The scenery is charming, and all its fragrance and delight. Towards the south coast, after dropping from the great Persian tableland, there are palms and shady bowers; folks dress gaily and are merry; and one did, indeed, feel that the scene was Eastern.

At that time 820 miles was made at the rate of 6 1/2 miles an hour, with a rest of 2 1/2 hours. Yesterday the fast mail was again late in Wyoming, and was dined across the Nebraska plains at a rate that makes the Tuesday run of the Missouri Pacific freight train from Julesburg to Council Bluffs, 294 miles, in 286 minutes. From this must be deducted five minutes for changing engines at Grand Island, 4 minutes delay by a Missouri Pacific freight train on the crossing at Portal, and the necessary slow-up through Omaha, a distance of five miles, and a slow run over the Missouri river bridge.

The actual running time of the train was 275 minutes, an average of 63.6 miles an hour.

INDIAN TERRITORY BLAZE. Loss of \$100,000 in Burning of Business Blocks at Tulsa. TULSA, Okla., Dec. 5.—Fire originating in the general merchandise store of Price & Gillette this afternoon destroyed over \$100,000 worth of property.

MOB IN A THEATER. Riot Results From the Sale of a Lincoln Playhouse. LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 5.—The Lansing theater, the leading playhouse of the city, was this morning before daylight dismantled of its furnishings.

He—They were married at home, I hear. How was the service? She—Um—er—plated, I think.

THE PURCHASER, William Oliver, of New York. Between 2 and 3 o'clock, Lansing, his attorneys, and a number of security agents, accompanied by the purchaser, arrived at the site of the first looks out over that Babylonian plain. But not for long does the feeling of desolation hang over him, for in the distance rises a mound that instantly attracts his attention, sending his thoughts back to the dawn of human history.

TO CHICAGO FOR \$7.00. On the famous North-Western Limited. Secure tickets at 355 Robert street, St. Paul; 413 Nicollet avenue, Minneapolis, and union depots in both cities.

SAYS ARREST IS A MISTAKE. NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—Harry Stewart, a jeweler, was arraigned as a suspicious character in a police court today and remanded until tomorrow for identification. Stewart was arrested Saturday by central office detectives at the Hotel Cadillac on the strength of a telegram from the chief of police of Cleveland, which stated that Stewart was a very indignant over his arrest. He says that he is not the man wanted.

TO CHICAGO FOR SEVEN DOLLARS. Commencing Wednesday, December 1st, the Burlington will sell tickets to Chicago for \$7.00. Finest train on earth. Ticket offices, 400 Robert St. (Hotel Ryan) and Union Depot.

WAS BABEL A MYTH?

HIGHER CRITICS SAY THERE IS LITTLE FOUNDATION FOR THE STORY.

ONLY HEBREW FOLK LORE

INTRODUCED AT A LATE PERIOD INTO THE BOOK OF SCRIPTURES.

BABYLONIA WAS THE SITE.

Mound on the Plains Which Tradition Says Is the Remains of the Tower

A pivotal point in the current discussion by the critics of the Bible regarding the authenticity of the historical statements of the Old Testament is that relating to the Tower of Babel. The opinion is held on one hand that the story as contained in the Bible is merely a legend, introduced at a late period in the first book of the Scriptures, says the New York Herald.

On the other hand, it is claimed that the story is a simple statement of fact, and that there really took place in the early history of the human race the building of such a structure, the circumstances of which are carefully recorded in the Bible as follows: THE BIBLE STORY.

"And the whole earth was of one language and of one speech. And it came to pass as they journeyed from the East, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. And they said one to the other: 'Go to, let us make brick and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime they had for mortar. And they said: Go to, let us build a city and a tower whose top may reach to heaven. And let us make a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.'"

And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the children of men builded. And the Lord said: Behold, the people are one, and they have all one language, and this they begin to do, and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down and there confound their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth, and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel, because the Lord did there confound the language of all the people. These are the generations of Shem: Shem was a hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad, two years after the flood."

ABYSSINIAN PLAINS THE SITE. All scholars agree, however, that if such a building was ever undertaken, and in part erected, that it was on the Babylonian plains, in the neighborhood of Babylon. From the dawn of civilization Babylon was regarded as a sacred locality, the name itself signifying the "Gate of God."

But Babylon was not destined to last in all the glory of its imperial grandeur, and in the thirteenth chapter of Isaiah the destruction of the great city is vividly pictured by the prophet in the following words: "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation; neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; nor shall the shepherds make their fold there. But the wild beasts of the desert shall lie there and their house shall be full of doleful creatures, and owls shall dwell there, and the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate places, and dragons in their pleasant places, and there shall no man dwell, and her days shall not be prolonged."

CRITICAL. The account given in Genesis 11, 1-9, is a brief historical record of an important event in the early history of the human race. There is nothing incredible in the statement of the first great attempt at temple building. It was the spirit of pride that was checked by the intervention of the Almighty. And we have reason to believe that the people were already departing from the worship of the one true God.

THE TOWER MOUND. All is gone, and in the entire world there is today hardly a place so drear and uninviting as the scene that breaks upon the vision of the traveler as he first looks out over that Babylonian plain. But not for long does the feeling of desolation hang over him, for in the distance rises a mound that instantly attracts his attention, sending his thoughts back to the dawn of human history. It is the mound that tradition points to as marking the spot where stood the tower so famous in history. The Herald is indebted to Dr. William Hayes Ward for the photographs here reproduced, showing the mound, the ruins of the tower upon the summit and the recent excavations at its base. These photographs were made by J. H. Hayes, of Dr. Ward's party, during his late expedition to the mound and surrounding plains. They represent the ruins as they stand today.

REBUILT ON OLD FOUNDATION. In considering the evidence bearing upon the existence of the tower, it must not be forgotten that the Babylonians like the ancient Egyptians, reared their temples on the ruins of old foundations. Thus on the spot where the tower was begun, great temples were subsequently erected, the last of which was that of the famous Nebuchadnezzar, and which was doubtless not a great tower constructed to escape the terrors of another flood, but a magnificent temple rising up in the midst of the new city of the plain. The excavations of the interior of this mound have revealed exactly how the base of the tower looks today. In the excavations of the interior of this mound have revealed exactly how the base of the tower looks today. In the excavations of the interior of this mound have revealed exactly how the base of the tower looks today.

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A Royal Gift.

WHICH SHALL IT BE? PIANO OR AN ORGAN?

Don't decide hastily—take time. Visit our establishment to-morrow. Examine our splendid line of the world's best Pianos. Select the one you like best—make a cash payment of \$25—the balance in monthly installments of \$10. Easy, isn't it? And what a superb gift, too! Here's the list—names to conjure with:

Steinway, Knabe, Kranich & Bach, Ivers & Pond, Ludwig, Krell, Smith & Barnes.

A PIANO is an almost indispensable—certainly not an expensiv—adjunct to one's home—that is, the way we sell them.

W. J. DYER & BRO. Next to Postoffice.

CLAIMS A FOUR-YEAR TERM. Basis for Postmaster Rapier's Reasons for Retention of Office. MOBILE, Ala., Dec. 5.—The controversy over the postmastership at Mobile is attracting general attention because of the important legal phases of the case and the possible effect on the spirit of the civil service law. Postmaster Rapier, who refuses to surrender the office to P. D. Barker, is a Cleveland appointee whose commission is dated Dec. 11, 1894, and his official term will therefore not expire until December, 1898. Mr. Rapier contends that the section of the revised statutes under which first-class postmasters are appointed provides in terms that such postmasters shall be appointed for the term of four years and can be removed by the president only by and with the advice and consent of the senate. The president, on the 1st of October, gave to P. D. Barker, a Republican, a commission as Rapier's successor. Barker, who was out of the city, did not return until December 1st, and on the 1st of December demanded of Postmaster Rapier the surrender of the office. Mr. Rapier claims he received no notice of his removal according to law and will not surrender the office until the legality of his removal has been passed upon by the courts. Barker, the new appointee, was postmaster at Mobile during the Harrison administration and served out his full term of four years.

AGED MAN A WANDERER. Refuses to Call Any Place His Home, Preferring to Tramp the Country. Investigations regarding the report that an old man named Alonzo Huntley had walked from this city to Niles, Mich., has resulted in a curious story, says the Council Bluffs Nonpareil. The old gentleman, now called Huntley, has a remarkable record in various portions of the country who are willing and able to care for him, but he absolutely refuses to take up an abode in any place.

There is something pathetic about his wanderings. He was a young man and from a happy, steady husband he developed into a veritable wandering Jew. With the grief occasioned by the death of his wife, he became unsettled, and he could not be satisfied in any place. He has a sister, Mrs. Tinnell, of Missouri county, in this state, and a niece in his city, Mrs. F. M. Phillips. He was staying with the Phillips family, but last spring he was followed by his devoted little dog, and Mrs. Badger, supposed to live near Niles, Mich. He invariably carries his bow-wow with him, and he has a great fondness for his wood sawed by his relatives he says it is his only comfort in his wanderings. He has given him by his relatives he says it is his only comfort in his wanderings. He has given him by his relatives he says it is his only comfort in his wanderings.

HIS UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE. Caused Titters and Sly Chuckles. She Wasn't His Wife. A laughable but rather embarrassing case of mistaken identity occurred the other day in a large draper's shop. A gentleman in a little too fond of joking entered the shop for the purpose of meeting his wife at a certain corner. Sure enough, there stood a lady dressed to his eye, at least just like the woman he was expecting. He stepped up to her, she turned and he saw that it was not his wife, but a stranger. He was very much embarrassed, and he quickly approached, took her by the arm and said, "I am very sorry, but I am sure you are my wife. I am sure you are my wife. I am sure you are my wife."

THE PRISONER OF ZENDA. With Howard Gordon and the company of 29 others. Prices, 25 c., \$1.00 and \$1.50. Dec. 9.—Frederic Ward in the romantic play, Iskender.

AMUSEMENTS. GRAIN RICE'S A BIG SHOW 49c. AT OUR POPULAR MATINEE PRICES. WEDNESDAY. Next Week—At Piney Ridge.

METROPOLITAN TONIGHT—Matinee Wednesday. Dan'l Frohman's special company, in his great play, THE PRISONER OF ZENDA.

BRIDGE HALL. Ryan Building, Entrance from 7th St.

CONCERT LUTHER QUARTETTE. Under Auspices of Christ Church Chof. MONDAY EVENING Dec. 6th. TICKETS 50 CENTS.

Best electric lighted cars to Milwaukee and Chicago. City Ticket Office, 365 Robert St.



THE TOWER OF BABEL. A BIBLE LEGEND.

What is usually spoken of as the Tower of Babel is the temple pyramid, in seven stages, built (we do not know how early) in the city of Nimrod, in the neighborhood of the present city of Babylon, in the Euphrates, and repaired by the great King Nebuchadnezzar, who was named after that tower. The ruins of the tower are still to be seen in the city of Nimrod, after a Mohammedan tradition, and visited it when in charge of the expedition, and the ruins of the tower were taken by our photographer, J. H. Hayes. It was the Babylonian style to build the tower in the form of a pyramid, and the separate stages being in honor of different planetary gods. The Egyptian style of chameleons, which was the style of the tower, did not prevail in Babylon except in the earliest period. The extraordinary thing about the tower is that it is not a rounded hill, the bricks of the upper stage were in some great conflagration melted together, and the mass, which has been in some way broken, perhaps by lightning, and it is split from top to bottom, and the mass has become a mass of rubble, and it is not a rounded hill, the bricks of the upper stage were in some great conflagration melted together, and the mass, which has been in some way broken, perhaps by lightning, and it is split from top to bottom, and the mass has become a mass of rubble, and it is not a rounded hill, the bricks of the upper stage were in some great conflagration melted together, and the mass, which has been in some way broken, perhaps by lightning, and it is split from top to bottom, and the mass has become a mass of rubble, and it is not a rounded hill, the bricks of the upper stage were in some great conflagration melted together, and the mass, which has been in some way broken, perhaps by 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