

# Thousands say that McCLURE'S MAGAZINE

is the best published at any price. Yet it is only 10 cents a copy, \$1.00 a year.

In every number of McClure's there are  
Articles of intense interest on subjects of the greatest national importance. Six good short stories, humorous stories, stories of life and action—and always good.

In 1904

McClure's will be more interesting, important and entertaining than ever. "Every year better than the last or it would not be McClure's."

**FREE** Subscribe now for McClure's for 1904, and get the November and December Numbers of 1903 free.

The S. S. McClure Company, 623 Lexington Building, New York, N. Y.

## The Times' Daily Short Story.

### A RANDOM SHOT

(Original.)

While acting as an independent detective at Chicago one night about 10 o'clock a scrap of paper was left at my door on which was written in a woman's hand, "Barney Redfield, who robbed the National bank of Denver, will be at No. R— avenue tonight." I had never seen Redfield or his picture and knew nothing about him except that there was a reward of \$5,000 offered for his capture. I knew nothing of the house in R— avenue. All I could do was to go there and be guided by circumstances.

I found the house brilliantly lighted and guests entering under an awning. I walked in with the rest. Though I was not in evening dress I had on an overcoat, so this did not matter for the entrance. I was shown up to the gentlemen's dressing room, where I remained without taking off my overcoat till the others had gone down. Then I resolved to look about me for apparel suitable to the occasion. Going to the floor above, which was deserted, I ransacked closets and drawers, finding nothing till I came to a room in which a dress suit, shirt, collar, cuffs and a pair of black silk stockings were spread out on the bed, while a pair of low shoes were on the floor. Evidently some one was expected for whom they had been made ready. I put them on and went downstairs.

I ran a great risk, for, though I could prove I was a detective, I had actually stolen a suit of clothes and was promising to steal other things. Going down a winding staircase and seeing the host and hostess receiving guests in the drawing room, I turned into the library. I strolled about, keeping an eye on every one I met, but saw no inkling to lead me on. A young lady who proved to be the daughter of the hostess sat for a long while in a window seat with a handsome young fellow with a very restless eye, and Barney Redfield would be more likely to spend his time looking for jewelry or silverware than spooning. After spending an hour dodging the members of the family I concluded to go upstairs, when I heard a gentleman say:

"There's been a robbery. Frank's clothes were laid out for him upstairs, and when he arrived just now he found they were gone."

For a moment my heart stood still, but regaining my assurance and remembering that if Barney Redfield were in the house and knew that the family were alarmed he would immediately make an escape, I said to the speaker:

"I would suggest, sir, that the exits be watched to prevent the thief's escape."

"You are right," he replied and departed to see that my suggestion was carried out.

**Dreyfus Decision in a Few Days.**  
Paris, Dec. 7.—The great quantity of documents transmitted to the revision committee in the Dreyfus case will prevent the rendering of an opinion before Friday or Saturday. The anti-Dreyfus movement has received a check through the declaration of the Socialist party that it had not signed and did not approve of the recent manifesto urging opposition to the government's policy.

**Steel Railroad Economizing.**  
Greenville, Pa., Dec. 7.—Acting upon the orders of the United States Steel corporation, retrenchment is being made in all departments of the Bessemer and Lake Erie railroad. Operators, trainmen and employees of all classes to the number of several hundred have been discharged.

**Millionaire Went Found!**  
Richmond, Va., Dec. 7.—A Bristol (Penn.) special says that it is reported that Edward L. Wentz, the young Philadelphia millionaire who had been missing since Oct. 14, has been found and that he is probably demented. It appears that Wentz has been in hiding in the mountains not far from Finney, a station on the Clinch valley division of the Norfolk and Western railroad.

**Vermont Prisoners Escape.**  
Montpelier, Vt., Dec. 7.—After sawing away a bar in the rear of the Washington county jail Dick Colley, Earl Knapp and Eugene Davis crawled through the opening and made their escape. All the swine within fifty miles have been notified to be on the lookout for the fugitives, and outgoing freight trains from this vicinity are being carefully scrutinized.

## Ayer's Hair Vigor

Did you know it always restored color to gray hair, always? Makes the hair grow; and stops falling hair.

## THE COTTON SITUATION

Southern Mills to Consider Curtailing of Production.

EUROPE AND THE HIGH PRICES

Foreign Experts Declare the Entire Continental Industry Must Be Adjusted to Meet New Conditions.

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 7.—The indications are that the meeting of cotton men to consider the advisability of curtailing production will be largely attended, the rise in the price of cotton during the past few days probably causing the attendance to be larger than it would have been otherwise. In addition to mill men from all over the south it is expected that manufacturers and commission men from the north and east will be present and that any agreement for curtailment that may be entered into at the meeting here will include quite a number of northern mills.

It is expected that the cloth mills will be more largely represented than the yarn mills, since the latter as a rule, it is said, are in better condition than the former.

It is estimated that about 20 per cent of the southern mills have a sufficient amount of cotton bought to run them until next summer, and it is not expected that any of these mills will agree to curtail their production. Neither are the mills which have contracts to fill in a position to curtail or shut down.

**Worst in Twenty-Five Years.**

The president of one of the largest cloth mills in the south said: "The situation is critical, view it any way you may. Taken as a whole, I believe the condition confronting us today is the worst in twenty-five years. The only remedy I see is a general curtailment, the chief benefit from that being that the mills could run at a smaller loss. What makes it worse for the south is that the mills in every other part of the cotton manufacturing world are better off so far as supplies of raw material are concerned than we are. Early in the season when we were holding off for lower prices, the continental spinners came into the market and purchased their cotton, and today, no matter where the price of cloth may go, they can manufacture cotton at a cost of from 2 to 3 cents a pound less than we can. Inasmuch as not more than a third of the American cotton crop is consumed in this country, we are in no position whatever to control the market, especially on export goods. As I see it the only hope for us now is to curtail production and run our plants at a reduced loss."

**THE EUROPEAN VIEWS.**

**Austrian Manufacturers Affected by the Rise in Our Cotton Prices.**

Vienna, Dec. 7.—The Austrian cotton manufacturers are seriously affected by the advance in the American cotton market. A majority of the manufacturers were entirely unprepared for the rise, carrying very small stocks and consequently they will be obliged to restrict their output to the lowest possible amount.

Some factories are expected to shut down temporarily. Experts say that the entire continental cotton industry must be readjusted to meet the new conditions, and some profess to see consolation in the probability that the general curtailment of manufactured goods will tend to a healthier condition in the cotton industry of Europe.

**Leak Impossible, Says Wilson.**

Washington, Dec. 7.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson declares an incorrect charge that has been made that advance information of the government cotton report has been made public. The secretary said the system in vogue in the department rendered it impossible for any one, even the chief statistician himself, to know what the estimate would be in advance of the morning upon which it is given out and that any leakage was impossible.

**Cotton Mills Cut Wages.**

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 7.—A special to the Telegram from Pittsburg says the 1,100 employees in the Nokeke, Orswell and Grant Yarn company mills, all manufacturers of cotton goods, will go to work Monday under a cutdown of wages reported to be 10 per cent. There will be no strike, and the employees will accept the cutdown.

**The Red Cross Quarrel.**

Washington, Dec. 7.—At a meeting of the suspended members of the Red Cross society it was decided to reject Miss Clara Barton's proposition to participate in the annual meeting of the society to be held in this city on Dec. 8. It was also decided to issue an appeal to congress to authorize a full investigation of the affairs of the American National Red Cross.

**Coming Live Stock Convention.**

Portland, Ore., Dec. 7.—Secretary Charles F. Martin of the National Live Stock association has issued the official call for the convention which is to be held here Jan. 12 to 15 inclusive. The call is addressed to the members and to all others interested in the cattle industry.

**Steel Trust Official Resigns.**

Cleveland, O., Dec. 7.—A. B. Wolcott, fourth vice president of the United States Steel corporation and general manager of the Pittsburg Steamboat company, has resigned.

**TO CURE A COULD IN ONE DAY**

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

### HEAD FOR CHINESE FORCES.

Viceroy Yuan Shi Kai Promoted to Command of Army and Navy.

Tientsin, China, Dec. 7.—Yuan Shi Kai, the governor of Chih province, has received a telegram from the throne promoting him to the entire command of the imperial army and navy, the highest rank in China.

An edict just issued appoints Prince Ching, the grand secretary; Yuan Shi Kai, the governor of Chih province, and a Manchou official to be a committee to reorganize the armies of all the Chinese provinces on a national basis, with similar arms, equipments and organization.

While the edict indicates that the dowager empress has some apprehension of her country's needs, there is no reason to anticipate greater results than from the recent similar decrees relative to financial, educational and other reforms. Yuan Shi Kai is the only member of the committee who is competent to undertake the work, but he, like Prince Ching, is overburdened with other offices.

**New Boxer Massacres.**

Paris, Dec. 7.—The Rappel publishes a dispatch from St. Petersburg announcing the massacre by Boxers of a number of Christians in the Szechuan province of China.

**A LOOPHOLE FOR ZEIGLER.**

Charge Made That Prosecuting Attorney Was Illegally Appointed.

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 7.—The question as to who is prosecuting attorney of Cole county is a matter of consequence in the hearing of William Zeigler, baking powder manufacturer, who is wanted here on a charge of bribery in the extradition proceedings before Governor Odell at Albany, N. Y.

After the indictment was returned against Zeigler Judge Hazell suspended Prosecuting Attorney R. P. Stone from office and appointed F. M. Brown to serve until the charges against Stone had been acted on.

When the extradition papers for Zeigler were prepared Brown signed affidavits as prosecuting attorney declaring that Zeigler was a fugitive from justice. Attorney for Zeigler have now secured copies of the record showing the suspension of Stone and will use them in the fight before Governor Odell in attempting to show that Brown is not the prosecuting attorney of Cole county and hence has no lawful right to make the affidavits. They will attempt to show that Stone was illegally removed from office and hence Brown's appointment is null and void.

**INVASION OF ZION PLANNED.**

Clergymen Decried of Preaching to Dowry Converts.

Chicago, Dec. 7.—Application for permission to invade Zion City with religious and charity workers and to hold revival and mission services and meetings there for the purpose of converting the followers of Dowry has been made to the receivers and their attorneys. Clergymen of various denominations declare that the people of Zion City need instruction upon the distinction between religion and materialism and that if permission is given to establish missions and to hold services the condition of the people of Zion City could be improved.

It is urged that the people of Zion City at this time are in a "receptive frame of mind." The application has not been sanctioned by the receivers, who say they are handling commercial propositions and have no right to mix it with the religious affairs of the people of Zion City.

**Army Wireless Tests.**

New London, Conn., Dec. 7.—A successful test of the new wireless telegraph plant installed by the United States government at Fisher's Island has been made. Messages were sent from Fort H. G. Wright, on the island, to Fort Schuyler, N. Y., a distance of 106 miles. Three messages of about twenty words each were sent at the rate of one a minute and were accurately received. The system, which is a composite one, has been established under the direction of Captain L. D. Wildman of the signal corps. It will be used in Alaska for the government service.

**Japan Wants Answer From Russia.**

St. Petersburg, Dec. 7.—Japan has communicated indirectly with the Russian government, urging upon it the desirability for an early response to the Japanese note regarding affairs in the far east on account of the political situation in Tokyo, and the foreign office here has expressed the opinion that the reply will be ready Dec. 8. The return to St. Petersburg of Emperor Nicholas will facilitate early action on the document.

**Lost With All on Board.**

St. John's, N. F., Dec. 7.—An unknown square rigged vessel, believed to be a Norwegian craft, struck on Ferryland head, near Cape Race, during a furious storm at midnight, and every soul aboard perished. One body was washed ashore, but bore nothing which could possibly lead to its identification except a gold ring marked with the initials "J. E." Nothing is known of the ship in these waters.

**The Massachusetts Counterfeiters.**

Boston, Dec. 7.—John Davis, said to be the leader of the counterfeiters caught in Revere, has confessed. He is considered one of the most dangerous men in his line in the world. The officers are convinced that they have unearthed one of the largest bands of counterfeiters ever captured.



### Could Kick a Dog.

You are mad at everything, over-worked, nerve-broken-down, business man. I have seen people just like you before; almost willing to break up your home on account of those irritating nerves of yours. Now, take my advice and get over this nervousness. There is no need of it. Just take Romoc and it will not be very many days before you will find that your nerves are quieter and stronger. Your digestion will immediately improve and your appetite increase. Little things will cease to irritate you. Romoc, you know, is Nature's own remedy. It tones up the entire system and is just better for you than drugs that break build up, or remedies which contain poisons may lift you up for a while, but they drop you back to earth with a sickening thud.

All I ask you to do is to give Romoc a fair trial, and you will realize that your best friend is Nature, and that Romoc, her remedy, is the greatest medicine in the world.

Won't you please buy a bottle of Romoc on my assurance that it will do you good, and you will become one of the many in this city advocating Romoc.

Ask for ROMOC LAXATIVE TABLETS—SURE CURE FOR CONSTIPATION.

We have investigated Romoc. We know that all that is said by the Romoc pertaining to this wonderful remedy is true, and we will refund to anyone price of the remedy not satisfied with the results obtained. Remember, Romoc guaranteed and sold by

RICKERT & WELLS, 160 North Main St., Barre, Vt.

## NOMINATIONS HELD UP

Close of Extra Session Precludes Wood and Other Appointments.

NOW FOR REGULAR SESSION.

Effect of Refusal of the Senate to Confirm the General's Promotion. Questions May Have to Be Settled by Attorney General.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The extra session of the fifty-eighth congress expiring by constitutional limitation Monday, the regular session begins at once. This eliminates the possibility of a recess between the two sessions and opportunity for the president to review his civil and military recess appointments. Such appointments as have not been confirmed by the senate during the extra session must be renewed simply in the form of nominations, which in effect are but recommendations and do not become effective in any case until confirmed by the senate.

**Effect on General Wood.**  
In effect, this action will denote General Leonard J. Wood from his present rank of major general, to which the senate has not confirmed him, to the rank of brigadier general, which he held prior to Aug. 8 last. It also will denote in like manner 167 army officers who were promoted respectively to fill the vacancies caused by the promotion of General Wood. The important civil appointments affected include William D. Crum as collector of customs at Charleston, S. C.; Charles P. McClelland as a member of the board of general appraisers of merchandise at New York and T. V. McAllister of Vicksburg, Miss., as receiver of public moneys, all of whom are serving under recess appointments, the effect being to vacate their present positions.

As Collector Crum's recess appointment has thus been terminated, and the effect of the action will be to vacate the position of the other officers mentioned.

**The McKnight Poisoning Case.**  
Caddo, Mich., Dec. 7.—The prosecution in the trial of Mrs. Mary McKnight on the charge of poisoning her brother, John Murphy, has closed its case. Evidence was introduced to prove Mrs. McKnight's interest in the insurance policy on her brother's life. Attorney Gilbert in opening for the defense said they would claim that if any poison was given by Mrs. McKnight in the Murphy home it was in the ordinary course of household affairs of medicine.

**Labor Leaders Accused.**  
Chicago, Dec. 7.—Warrants have been issued by State Attorney Deeney for ten men prominent in labor circles, who are charged with conspiracy, to entice witnesses to leave the state and to interfere with the administration of justice.

**Mark Twain's Wife Ill.**  
Florence, Italy, Dec. 7.—Since Mrs. Clemens, wife of Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) arrived here Nov. 8 she has been so indisposed that no one outside her family has been allowed to see her.



Rich Milk from Our Own Herd. Everything Under Best Sanitary Conditions. (Telephone 214-13.)