

The Times' Daily Short Story.

A Face of Dignity

(Original.)

It doesn't matter how eminently respectable, moral, dignified, honorable, or so on, he is liable at some time to be caught in a shameful situation. Fred Barnabee was the last man in the world to be laughed at. A gentleman, prominent in his set, courteous and dignified, deferential to all, the very mention of his name in a party of young people was sufficient to excite sentiments of respect and admiration. Barnabee was one of those men whom no one expects to make any matrimonial alliance except with a lady equally refined and prominent as himself. Miss Alice Huntington was such a person, and when Barnabee began to pay her marked attention the social world said, "That will be an excellent match."

One evening Barnabee entered the grounds of Mr. Huntington, father of the young lady in question, when he saw the figure of Ellison Treat just entering the front door. Mr. Treat was a stranger who had been taken up by Miss Huntington despite the fact that he was somewhat brusque in his deportment and disposed to set aside many of society's most cherished rules. He was in a condition of probation, no one—unless it was Miss Huntington—knowing exactly whether to accept him as one of the gilded set or not. Barnabee suspected that Treat had the same object in view as himself—viz, Miss Huntington. If Treat was a suitor in good standing with the lady he (Barnabee) would retire. No one would ever think of Barnabee running a race with another man for the hand of any woman. The match he would make must be unique—that is, a pairing of two people socially far above all others in their set. Treat was evidently much at home with the Huntingtons or he would not be calling at so late an hour. It was after 10 o'clock. Indeed, Barnabee made up his mind to discover the situation before paying any further special attention to Miss Huntington. He noticed near the parlor window, which was too high for him to look into from the ground, a splendid apple tree, which was at the time full of ripening fruit. If he could get a glimpse of Treat and Miss Huntington alone together he could form an opinion

of their relationship. Fortune favored him in a short ladder which rested against the tree and by which he mounted to the lower limbs without tearing his kid gloves. It occurred to him that the act was beneath what would be expected of him, but it was so easy of accomplishment that he yielded.

The window shade was raised, and the bright light revealed Mr. Treat sitting in an easy chair very much at home and Miss Huntington by a table doing fancy work. There was nothing in the demeanor of either to indicate any special relationship, and Barnabee, suddenly realizing that he would better be engaged at other business, was about to descend when a rear door opened. Mr. Huntington came out and, proceeding to a dog kennel, unloosed a mastiff. Leading the dog to the tree, he commanded him to lie down, then went back into the house.

A cold sweat stood out on Barnabee's brow. Great heavens, was the dog to be left there all night? Barnabee could have stood a fogging, keelhauling, anything in the way of bodily suffering, but to be caught in such a position as this would be maddening. Treat was still in the house. How would he get out of the grounds with the dog unchained? Was he so intimate with the Huntingtons that even the dog considered him one of the family? In half an hour Treat appeared at the front door, accompanied by Mr. Huntington, who called the dog and stood for a moment holding him by the collar.

"It's the only way to keep my apples," Barnabee heard him say. "The boys would have them all in one night if I left them unguarded. Good night. Come to dinner on Sunday."

As soon as Treat was out of the grounds the speaker unloosed his hold on the dog and, pointing to the tree, sent the brute back to his post. Then he went into the house.

It was midnight when Barnabee concluded to make an effort to ingratiate himself with the dog. The effort was a failure. As soon as the beast heard a sound in the tree he set up a vociferous barking, nor would he desist. In half an hour Mr. Huntington came out in a dressing gown.

"What is it, Bruin?" "It is I, Mr. Huntington," called a faint voice from the branches.

"You? Who are you?" "Barnabee."

"Barnabee? Good gracious, what are you doing up in my apple tree?"

"Well, you see, I was coming in to call and thought I would like an apple."

"I see. You got caught. Come down. Here, Bruin."

Society was somewhat surprised at the next assembly to see that Miss Huntington did not notice Mr. Barnabee. Mr. Treat turned out to be a young lawyer from a far western state and is now in congress. Miss Huntington is unmarried.

JAMES B. WARNER.

SOCIETY TO UPLIFT LABOR.

Order Founded by an Illinois Man to Be Made National.

George H. Center, a miner of Duquoin, Ill., has gained considerable distinction by founding an order for the uplifting of people in general and miners in particular, says a dispatch from Duquoin. "It reaches men," says Mr. Center, "that the churches can't reach and that the secret societies won't have."

The order is known as the Knights and Ladies of the Cross, and so great has been its success in Duquoin that Mr. Center has decided to send out general organizers. The order has 340 members, 200 of whom are miners. The members bind themselves to meet their fellow members as equals, not to injure one of them, not to gamble or carry concealed weapons and to use their influence against the use of alcoholic drinks. Mr. Center says few of the members fall, and that when they do they are helped up and on again.

Outsiders at Duquoin are astounded at Mr. Center's success in raising men from the gutter, and he is almost an object of worship by the families of many men and by the men themselves whom he has helped to their feet.

There are three degrees in the order—Faith, Hope and Charity—the first of which is public. The order maintains a public reading room at a cost of \$1,200 a year, which is paid from voluntary contributions and money raised by giving socials and entertainments. No dues are asked of the members and there is no initiation fee.

Mr. Center's personality is out of the ordinary. He began work in a coal mine at St. John's, north of Duquoin, thirty-eight years ago, when he was eleven years old, and mining has been his life work. He is now manager of two mines owned by a coal and coke company.

Exploit of Cossacks.

Two wounded Cossacks, each wearing the cross of St. George, who recently arrived at Luoyang, tell a thrilling story of the fight near Takushan. Thirty-nine Cossacks were sent to reconnoiter the enemy's position, and when about five miles from Takushan they were suddenly surrounded by Japanese. The Cossacks charged with lances and were met with a volley from the Japanese which resulted in the dropping of twenty horses, the killing of two Cossacks and the wounding of six. The dismounted Cossacks scrambled behind their comrades' saddles. With newly every horse in the command carrying two men the Cossacks charged three times, and although covered with wounds, they cut their way out and rejoined the sotnia.

JAPANESE PATRIOTISM.

A Sample of It Described by George Kennan.

The patriotism of the Japanese people strikes even an American as something extraordinary and phenomenal, says George Kennan in a recent issue of the Outlook. I have seen women stick little cotton flags in the fists of the babies on their backs and stand for hours beside a railroad track waiting for a trainload of troops, satisfied if they could only throw a package of cheap cotton towels into an open window or even wave their handkerchiefs once to the men who were going to the front. Soldiers who bid their friends or their families goodbye bid them goodbye forever, with the expectation and the assurance of death. A few days ago an English lady living on the "hill" in Yokohama received a letter from a Japanese boy who had been employed in her house as a servant and who had gone to Korea with the first reserves. After giving her some news of his health and his movements he concluded by saying, in quaint and imperfect English:

"Please remember that, though I will die, Nippon Teikoku (Great Japan) should have victory and honor. Youth who unfear death, HIRO YAMAMOTO."

Of such "youth who unfear death" are the armies of Japan made up, and behind them is the flaming patriotism of a proud, brave and united people.

Discouraging Statehouse Contention.

For years and years the statehouse steps and lawn of Montpelier, Vt., have been the Mecca toward which the lingering footsteps of the "two hearts" that beat as one variety have tended, says the Montpelier Journal. Ethan Allen has for years held up his hand in token of silence as he has listened to the cooling of wingless doves that for years have held their spooning matches at the base of his pedestal. Now all will be changed. The edict has gone forth that courting days on the statehouse steps must end. To those who heed the warning all will be well. But the one who dares may be awkwardly nudged from "love's young dream" by "brass buttons," and instead of the honey tones of his beloved he may hear a raucous voice saying, "Five dollars and costs and stand committed till the same is paid," when his case comes up in police court.

The Sloth's Hair.

A naturalist has recently pointed out that in its native forests the hair of the sloth is green owing to the presence on or even in the hairs of a microscopic green alga. The green color fades after death, as the chlorophyll is readily destroyed by sunlight.

DESIGNS IN FIREWORKS

Special Devices For Celebrating the Fourth.

MANY IMPROVEMENTS IN ROCKETS

More Colors Used In All of the Designs Than Ever—Water Fireworks Greatly Improved—Meteor Candles and Colored Bombshells—Electric Niagara Waterfall a Novelty In Fountains.

Fireworks will be more than ever a feature of this year's Fourth of July, and of course there are new explosives to enthrall the patriot, says the Chicago Tribune. The countries all over the world contribute to this nation's celebration of its declaration of independence. Great numbers of the fireworks designs made abroad have combinations of America's national colors and of "Old Glory," and some of the Japanese lanterns recently received by a large firm in Chicago show designs of the American and English flags intertwined.

It is Japan, too, which sends us the daylight fireworks. They are intended for use in pleasure parks and similar places and are especially attractive to women and children. These devices are fired from mortars placed on the ground. The shells rise several hundred feet in the air, where it explodes and throws out immense figures of fish, birds, animals, flowers, pearls, streamers, globes, suns, moons, colored floating clouds and representations of thunderstorms.

These figures and shapes are brilliantly colored in such a way as to give the effect of interior illumination, though visible only in the daytime. They may be seen until they have slowly sunk to the earth or have been wafted out of range of vision by the wind. The difference between these and the Japanese balloons of animals and comic figures is that the latter are made to ascend by hot air, while the others are sent up from mortars with gunpowder. The balloons, however, are greatly improved this year, with new devices for heating the air and to prevent them catching fire.

Water fireworks, which have been seen for several years, have this year been greatly improved. These are designed to make displays on the surface of the water, upon which they are thrown from a boat or dock after having been properly lighted. In a few moments they begin to burn and show many combinations of colors in motion. Some of the designs have descriptive names indicative of what they look like, such as diving devils, flying fish, water volcanoes, sea serpents and jeweled fountains.

All the stock fireworks, such as rockets, candles, bombshells and fountains, show new features. This is particularly true of rockets. One important improvement in this piece consists in three wooden legs, which come attached to the rocket and which upon the removal of a confining band open out like a tripod, which can be stood upon the ground when ready to light.

Among new designs in rockets may be mentioned the telescope repeating rocket, which when it has reached a certain height sends out four more rockets that take slightly diverging paths, each disclosing clusters of colored stars or serpents, and the golden cloud rocket, which at the highest point of its flight distributes throughout a large area a golden cloud composed of fine particles of fire, which hang suspended in the air for some time like a mist.

The colored Japanese firefly rocket at the highest point of its flight hangs out several floating batteries and fountains that remain nearly stationary in the air, projecting streams of variously colored stars and meteors in all directions, while the colored triple bouquet rocket from the point of its greatest altitude displays a bouquet of many colored stars surrounded by a golden rain, all of which changes after a short descent to a second and then to a third bouquet, in which there is complete alteration of the colors. The new mammoth balloon rocket at a height of 600 feet hangs out seven balloons, from each of which depends a signal car that changes color as it burns. All the rockets this year have more colors in them than formerly.

In Roman candles the principal new thing is the meteor candle, the continuous stream of fire from which is studded with larger balls, so that it looks like a strand of beads with larger brilliants at regular intervals. Many new designs are to be found in colored bombshells.

Among the fountains a new one this year is the electric Niagara waterfall, which is particularly large and imposing. The dragon nest, also new, is set upon the ground and fired like a fountain. It sends out first a number of stars which during their flight separate into smaller stars. At the same time a shower of colored flames ascends to the height of eight or ten feet, when burst forth innumerable hissing dragons and curling serpents.

Lassoed His Big Catch.

Frank Rogers of South Orrington, Me., has quite a fish tied up at his wharf on the river shore, says the Kennebec Journal. He caught a sturgeon eight feet long, weighing 250 pounds, in his salmon net and has him fastened by a rope so that he can swim around in the creek. People who wish to see him pull him ashore, and after the inspection the big sturgeon wiggles back into deep water. The sight is quite a treat to those who have never seen quite so large a fish, and many embrace the opportunity.

BAD BREATH

"For months I had great trouble with my stomach and used all kinds of medicines. My tongue has been actually green as grass, my breath having a bad odor. Two weeks ago a friend recommended Cascarets and after using them I can willingly and cheerfully say that they have entirely cured me. I can now move about as I should, and thank you to any one suffering from such troubles." Chas. H. Hays, 114 E. 7th St., New York, N. Y.



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NOISELESS FOURTH OF JULY

The movement for the abolition of the ear-splitting Fourth of July noises is gaining ground.—Daily Express

On a noiseless street stood a crackleless lad with a screechless life and a headless drum.

Venting his glee in a voiceless shout as a barefoot band, all still and dumb, came down the length of the avenue, and a bulge corps blew a noiseless blast. While a screechless rocket with noiseless hiss cut a fireless path through the silent air.

The barefoot band played a screechless tune, and the crackleless lad gave a voiceless shout.

As the rippling folds of the unfurled flag from the upheld standard fluttered out. "Hurrah!" he cried, with a voiceless cry, put forth from his lips in a speechless way.

"Hurrah for the guns of Lexington and the noiseless Independence day!"

Then far away down the village street a smokeless gun belched a soundless roar.

A popless cracker fireless died, and the band played a barefoot tune once more.

The crackleless guns of the village guards with a thudless sound dropped on the ground.

The marshal left his ruffled horse, and the voiceless mob ranged all around. A fireless pinwheel whirled, and the drum corps joined in a toolless screech.

The lips of the village speaker moved in the tongueless strains of a wordless speech.

Then a graceless benediction fell, and the crackleless lad in a voiceless way gave a soundless shout for Bunker Hill and the noiseless Independence day.

Oh, the pulseless thrill of the noiseless guns and the toolless files and the headless drums.

The barefoot joy of the crackleless lad as the soundless pageant noiseless comes.

Down the village street, and the sightless glow when the hissless rockets fireless glare.

With silent swish from the quiet earth through the measureless breadth of the lightless air!

But a fingerless youth of the olden time, when crackers popped and cannons roared.

Looked on the scene with men place and the look of a lad who is greatly bored.

And he cried aloud—"was the only sound that was heard not made in a voiceless way."

"Dog gone the guns at Bunker Hill and the noiseless Independence day!" —J. W. Foley in New York Times.

GEISHA GIRL'S MISSION.

Japanese Maiden Trained to Amuse Guests at Dinners.

Though Japanese womankind has been written about in flattering periods, one class has been greatly maligned, or shall we say misunderstood? We refer, of course, to the geisha, says the London Chronicle. There is a very widespread impression in this and other occidental countries that the geisha, to use the expression of one writer, is as frail as she is charming. Such, however, is far from the truth. Etymologically a geisha is an accomplished person; socially she is an entertainer who has been trained from the age of seven or eight to dance or sing for the amusement of guests at a dinner party. Convention having banished the actress from the Japanese stage, the geisha takes her place as a natural recipient of masculine homage.

As the majority of Japanese wives are not taught accomplishments, a Japanese husband turns to the geisha for the charms and delights he will not permit his wife to possess. A Japanese banquet, and, indeed, any refreshment taken at a tea house, is incomplete without the presence of these bright little butterfly-like Japanese life. A geisha can dance and sing charmingly—according to Japanese ideas of these accomplishments. With her, conversation has been brought to a fine art; she is quick at repartee, her manners are exquisite; her whole education has been devoted to the art of making life merry. This is her sole mission, and in its fulfillment she is eminently successful. Many of the girls and women possess great personal charms, but all are accomplished and clever, and are generally beautifully dressed in elegant and refined taste.

Big Price For Asparagus From Home.

Ten dollars is the reward for a bunch of asparagus from the garden of his boyhood home paid by James Hobart Moore, the Chicago financier, says the Chicago Record-Herald. Mr. Moore visited the old home at Greene, N. Y., recently, and he declared that he would be willing to pay as large a price the year round for any vegetable that would bring back the memories of his boyhood as that asparagus did.

The British Museum.

According to some interesting statistics of the library of the British Museum the number of books which it contains is 1,750,000, not counting single sheets or parts of works that are accumulating. The shelving of the library exceeds sixty-nine miles in length.

LIFE AT PORT ARTHUR

Gay Despite War Measures, Says Hector Fuller.

NO EVIDENCES OF DISTRESS.

American Correspondent, Recently a Captive, Found Russian Troops in Excellent Condition—Officers at a Dance—Released by General Stoessel, Who Remarked, on Hearing of His Exploit, "You Americans Must Be Crazy."

Hector Fuller, the war correspondent of the Indianapolis News, in a message sent recently from Chefoo, China, describes his experiences at Port Arthur, where he was imprisoned, as follows:

"After being rowed across from the Minatoo islands in an open boat by two Chinamen, I landed at Louisa bay. The bay is near Port Arthur and is separated from it by a range of hills. I landed at daybreak on the morning of June 10 without detection. With the full coming of the day I could see that every hilltop near the shore was alive with soldiers, busily engaged in strengthening the already formidable fortifications, which occupied every point of vantage.

"It looked at first as though it would be impossible to pass through the lines and make my way over the hills toward Port Arthur, but by keeping down in the narrow valleys, which were free of soldiers, I gradually made my way into the interior of the peninsula. After a day and night of effort I succeeded in reaching Port Arthur. The hazard of my position became so obvious that the same day, Saturday, June 11, I set out on my return to Louisa bay. I presently came in sight of a large body of Russian infantry, when I took refuge in a Chinese village, where I found a hiding place until the danger was over. I had not proceeded far from this village when I came upon a small party of sappers. In order to avoid them I made a dash up a hill, only to run into another regiment. Instantly I was surrounded.

"The officer in command detailed a guard to take me to Pigeon bay. There I was searched. I was stripped to the skin, and all my garments were subjected to the closest scrutiny. My money was taken, and all the papers in my possession were examined. Thereupon I was blindfolded and marched to Port Arthur. The route was over the military road recently constructed. In spite of the bandage over my eyes I was able to note that the road is of admirable construction.

"Port Arthur was full of life and gaiety. There seemed to be an abundance of supplies, and fresh supplies were coming in from Chinese sources. "The Japanese blockade has not been effective. The harbor entrance has been freed of obstructions, the battle-ships have been repaired, and the fortifications are constantly being made stronger. The garrison is larger than outside information had led me to believe. The troops are in excellent condition, and the general health conditions of the city are good. There seemed to be no fear that the city was likely soon to fall.

"The night I was marched into Port Arthur under guard the city was unusually lively, as the officers were giving a ball. Three officers were detailed to examine me, and they made thorough work of it. After the examination was completed I was lodged in prison. The prison is directly opposite Golden Hill. From the window of my cell I had a good view of the inner bay and could see distinctly the repaired battleships lying at anchor.

"In the same prison were confined 100 Japanese who had been captured from the blockading expedition. Several of these had become insane. I myself was kept on Russian black bread and water for two days. Then I was permitted by the authorities to purchase such food as I desired. While I was in the prison I was subjected to seven different examinations. The thing that evidently caused the greatest suspicion was the passport that had been issued to me at Tokyo.

"I demanded the opportunity of seeing General Stoessel, the commandant at Port Arthur, that I might lay my case directly before him. After five days my plea was allowed. I made a straightforward statement of my purpose in seeking to penetrate the Russian lines, and gave a detailed account of my trip. At last he was convinced of my good faith. He said: 'You Americans must be crazy.'

"As the result of this hearing of my case General Stoessel decided that I was to be allowed to leave Port Arthur on condition that I promise never to return. The promise was promptly forthcoming. Thereupon I was again

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omitted and taken back under guard by the direct route to Louisa bay. Arrived there I was requested to point out the exact spot at which I made my landing. Immediately a sentry was placed at that point.

"I was sent away then on a junk along with a host of Chinese. These were the men of an entire village who were being deported because the village had harbored some Japanese. The junk was escorted outside the harbor by Russian torpedo boats and then was left to make its way alone as best it could across the gulf.

"On the whole I may say that while I was in the hands of the Russians I was kindly treated.

"On the night of June 13 the Japanese made another attack on Port Arthur, both by land and by sea. I saw distinctly the firing from my cell window. When the affair was over the Russian officers returned laughing to their quarters, reporting that the enemy had been easily repulsed."

FOREIGN FACTS.

Serbia and Greece each have a population of 2,500,000, or a little less than the state of Indiana.

The Boers resent an attempt to take a Transvaal census. They consider it an intrusion into their private affairs.

A deposit of asphalt estimated to contain about 500,000 tons has been discovered on Table Mountain, near Cape Town, South Africa.

There are no fewer than 110 nationalities into which the Russian population has been divided, the three great stocks being the Finns, the Tartars and the Slavs.

Deeming the noise of church bells annoying to the sick and useless to the healthy in a modern town provided with plenty of clocks, the town council of Bilbao, Spain, has prohibited ringing.

Professor Elinders Petrie recently told an audience at Owens college, Manchester, England, that one spot in the ruins at Abydos, in upper Egypt, tells a continuous story running back to 5000 B. C. The remains of ten successive temples have been unearthed.

Motor Car In India.

The motor car has broken out in a new place. The Northwestern railway in India recently purchased a steam motor coach for \$2,000 (\$10,000) to run over its branch lines where a full train service does not pay. This motor coach will carry sixty-six passengers in all and run thirty miles without replenishing coal and water. It thus suffices to make a connection with the main lines.

A Social Craze.

The very newest social craze in London, the cult of astrology, is already beginning to render life a burden. It is de rigeur to have had, or to be about to have, one's horoscope cast. Nothing must be attempted, nothing done, without a consultation of one's signs and dates. It is upsetting social arrangements and in many cases causing positive mental depression.

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