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A Japanese Spy

By FRANK MARTINDALE

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During the war in Japan between the adherents of the mikado and the shogun, the mikado's troops were besieging a fortress which both sides wanted.

But there is one matter of importance concerning it that is pertinent to this story. The mikado's army was very small, and a force of the shogun's was coming up to the relief of the besieged. This force was expected within a week. The success of the mikado depended upon how long his enemy's supplies would hold out. If there were enough for but a few days the besiegers might remain and reap the benefit of their labors. If the provisions should last longer than that they would better be off before the relief force came up or they might be overwhelmed by a superior army.

To know what supplies the defenders of the fortress had would be of inestimable value to the besiegers. It meant a possible possession of the point of attack, and it meant a prevention of a possible annihilation of the emperor's army and the probable loss of his cause.

The devotion of the Japanese people under such circumstances is a wonder. It is that devotion which enabled them to force a peace upon the Russian bear that had threatened to "walk all over" their little island and take possession of it. It is that devotion that has enabled them to protect themselves while cultivating the commercial methods of western civilization.

There came a noble to the mikado and said to him:

"O mighty emperor, it is an account of your majesty's virtue that I feel an impulse spring up within me. My ancestors are looking down upon me and smile pleasantly upon me as I yield to the inspiration. I will disguise myself and obtain admittance to the fortress. There I will observe for how many days your enemies are supplied, and I will return and advise you of the fact."

"I am well pleased," replied the emperor. "That my virtues have produced in you such a worthy motive. You have my permission to go into the fortress and observe the supply of food our enemies have and return to me and tell me. I will request the shades of my own ancestors to watch over you, but if you die in your attempt you will have the satisfaction of knowing that both mine and your ancestors will welcome you in spirit-land."

So the noble prostrated himself before his majesty and turned and went

away. That same day a man dressed as a shepherd found access to the fortress and went among the granaries and found them nearly empty. There was food enough to last but two days. The shepherd, satisfied with the information he had gained, was about to leave the fortress when one who had known him before the war came on recognized him. The spy was seized and hurried before the shogun.

"This man," said his captor, "is a noble who supports the mikado for the position to which your majesty is entitled. He has been among us in this raid of a shepherd and knows just how many days' supply we have on hand. What shall we do with him?"

"Cruelly him," said the shogun. With that they were leading the spy away to crucify him when the shogun called to them to bring him back. "If you will go to the wall," he said to the spy, "and tell your people that we have supplies to last several weeks I will spare your life."

"That I will do," said the other. "My ancestors call to me to stand firm and they will receive me at my death joyfully, but I have a wife and children in the mikado's camp, and I am loath to leave them for my ancestors, whom I reverence greatly, but have never seen. I am so weak as to prefer my wife and little ones."

"Go, then; tell them what I have said to you, and I will in time return you to your wife."

The spy was conducted to the wall and stood upon it, the soldiers of the shogun keeping in the background. He signaled the besiegers to come near that he might speak to them. So they all drew as near as they dared, the family of the spy coming with the others. The spy stood looking at them brightly as they drew near and saw his wife and little ones looking up at him anxiously, knowing that he must have been discovered by the besieged people and that a great crisis was at hand.

The shogun sat in the center of the fortress, rejoicing that he had found a means of deceiving his enemies and sending them off when near the accomplishment of all they had been so long striving for. About him stood his soldiers waiting to hear the spy tell his people of the abundance of supplies there were in the fort.

Then the spy raised his hand for silence and said to them: "O my people, I have examined the supplies that there are in this fortress, and there are but enough to last two days."

A thousand spears were buried at him, and he fell on the wall. "O my people," exclaimed the mikado, "our ancestors are taking him to their bosoms."

Then he gave orders to move on the fortress, and the defenders, being discouraged, gave way before them, so it was not long before the conquered people were sent to the bosoms of their own ancestors.

A TRYING ORDEAL

The Fettering Process of a Marriageable Girl in Tunis.

The marriageable girl in Tunis has a trying ordeal to go through after her betrothal to the man not of her choice, but whose choice she is, she has to be fattened to the required size before the ceremony can take place.

As soon as the betrothal takes place she is taken to a room and there cooped up till the fattening process is concluded. Silver shackles are fastened round her wrists and ankles and the task of her parents and future husband is to increase her bulk till her wrists and ankles fill up the shackles. If the husband is a widower or has "discharged" his first wife the girl has the shackles of the first spouse placed on her, and she must fill them out.

It takes a long time to do this as a rule, and sometimes it cannot be accomplished in spite of all efforts. It is then open to the future husband to cry off the bargain or waive the condition. In the case of a bachelor he takes care to see that the bracelets and shackles are not too large—that is, if he is fond of the girl—but if he is being forced into the marriage by his parents he is a great stickler for custom. Stout girls are the more quickly snapped up in Tunis.—St. James' Gazette.

TO BAR LORDS FROM FINANCE

Otherwise the Veto Power Will be Limited

SAYS PREMIER ASQUITH

Stakes the Life of the Party—But the Fight Will Not Come on Until After Easter.

London, March 1.—Financial business first and then the House of Lords was the program laid down by Premier Asquith in a statement made in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon. In moving that government business have precedence at every sitting up to March 24.

When Parliament reassembled after the Easter recess, the premier said, the government would present resolutions affirming the necessity of excluding the House of Lords altogether from the domain of finance and restricting its power of veto to other legislation.

To secure this, he said, the government would use all methods that seemed proper and adequate within the limits of the constitution, and upon its successful accomplishment the cabinet and Liberal party would stake, not only the fortunes of the ministry, but their very existence as a party.

The premier explained his program at some length, and the intense interest with which those in the crowded chamber listened testified to the importance attached to the plans of the government. The exigencies of the financial situation were such, the premier declared, that the vote on the army and navy bills, covering the borrowings and other urgent demands, must occupy the whole time of the House of Commons up to March 24, when adjournment will be taken to March 29. Immediately when Parliament is reassembled, he said, the government will introduce its resolution regarding the House of Lords.

Continuing, the prime minister said that it would be made plain that the proposed changes were without prejudice and that the government contemplated in the subsequent year the substitution in the second chamber of a democratic for a hereditary body. A bill giving in effect the operative part of the resolutions would then be introduced, Mr. Asquith said, but in order to avoid waste of time and labor and to bring the matter to an issue at the earliest possible moment, the resolutions would be submitted to the House of Lords.

"If the House of Lords agrees to them, well and good," the prime minister concluded, "but whether it does or does not, the government will regard the placing with all possible promptitude upon the statute books of a provision which will set free this house from the veto of the House of Lords, not only the first condition of the legislative dignity and utility of the House of Commons, but our own primary and paramount duty. In the prosecution of that task, we shall adopt all such measures within the limits of the constitution, as seem to us proper and adequate, and upon its successful accomplishment are at stake not only our fortunes, but our existence as a government."

At the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Asquith was greeted with loud applause by others, mingled with Unionist cries of "Where is the budget?" A. J. Balguy, the opposition leader, twitted the premier on the frequent changes in the government program and the abandonment of pledges with regard to the budget under pressure from those who had a passionate desire to pass the "people's" budget.

John Redmond, the Nationalist leader, declared that "nothing that the prime minister has said alters my view, and we ought to vote against the resolution." Mr. Redmond complained that Premier Asquith had not made it clear what he would do if the House of Lords rejected the resolutions. He declared that if Mr. Asquith would make a definite promise that in the event of the House of Lords hanging up the resolutions he would go to the king and ask for guarantees, and, if refused, would resign, in the meantime suspending consideration of the budget, the Irish Nationalists would support the resolutions, otherwise the Nationalists must vote against the premier's motion.

Premier Asquith's motion giving government business precedence at every sitting up to March 24 was adopted, however, without division.

RESTORED TO HEALTH

What a Woman Near Damariscotta Says About the Remedy That Cured Her.

Neglect or improper treatment of woman's ill almost inevitably leads to a train of unfortunate results and frequently to a lifetime of misery. In time almost every organ of the body becomes affected, the nervous system is broken down, the digestion is weakened and symptoms of kidney trouble develop.

Women, who become pale and lose weight and ambition, and are subject to headaches and fainting spells, need such a tonic as Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They are especially adapted for girls and women of all ages and give just the aid required to bring back health and strength to the nervous and exhausted.

Mrs. Ethel F. Boston, whose address is R. F. D. No. 1, Damariscotta, Maine, says: "For a year following the birth of my child I suffered from weakness. At one time I was confined to the bed for three weeks. I was all run down and could hardly drag myself around the house. My blood was in poor condition. I was reduced in weight, my strength was entirely gone and I did not gain in health."

"I was treated by two doctors but did not seem to improve under their care. My brother-in-law suggested that I try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills but my family thought I would never get well again. After taking the pills for a time I noticed an improvement in my condition. I kept getting stronger and was soon restored to health. I heartily recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a tonic for the blood and nerves and have proved especially helpful to women and growing girls. They were used extensively in private medical practice and, proving efficient in a wide range of diseases and absolutely safe in all cases, were placed upon general sale with directions for use prepared by the doctor himself. Their merit has made them the most widely used family medicine in the world today.

Every woman should send for our booklet, "Plain Talks to Women." It will be mailed free in sealed envelope to the address of any applicant. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all druggists, or sent by mail, postpaid, on receipt of price, 50 cents per box; six boxes for \$2.50, by Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

HIS TAPESTRIES.

The Gems the Collector Bought and Showed to the Expert.

That the collector falls into a trap occasionally is shown by an episode which we recall. An enthusiastic purchaser of old tapestries was once offered in Paris a masterpiece executed on a large scale and held at a large figure. Consulting an expert, he was urged to buy, but the sum demanded seemed to him at the moment a good deal to invest in a tapestry, and he let the opportunity pass.

A year or so later he met his friend, the expert aforementioned, and asked him to come to his house to look at two tapestries he had just secured. "They are smaller," he said, "than the one you advised me to buy and which, to tell the truth, I have always regretted, and I paid twice as much for them as I was asked to pay for that glorious piece, but while it seemed a fearful lot of money to spend I simply couldn't resist the chance."

The specialist in tapestries walked into the gallery of the proud collector and gazed upon his prizes. He gazed for a time in silence and then had to be very guarded in his speech of congratulation. He was looking at the original tapestry, which his friend could have had for half the money, now neatly cut in two and supplied with borders. He never revealed to the victim of this ingenious little game what precisely had happened.—New York Tribune.

The First Tooth Festival.

Among the Syrians there is no such thing as giving a party in celebration of the first anniversary of the birth of a child. The celebration is held when the baby cuts its first tooth.

On such an occasion friends of the parents are not invited to the house to eat cakes and listen to a photograph, but whatever sweets may be prepared for the occasion are sent by the parents to the homes of the friends whom they wish to inform of the news. The friends later visit the parents and tender their congratulations. The dishes in which the sanabieh is carried to neighbors and friends are not returned immediately. Sometimes it is a week or even two before they are back in their customary places in the family cupboard. When they are returned they are not empty.

A Million Dollars for Advertising.

An appropriation of one million dollars to be spent this year advertising Pape's Peppermint and Pape's Balm has been decided upon by the directors of the Pape, Thompson & Pape company, Cincinnati, Ohio. Seventy per cent of this amount will be spent in the newspapers of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

This immense appropriation, one of the largest ever known, proves the company's absolute faith in the worth of its preparations, also the fact that the newspapers are the best medium to make a good article nationally known. Our readers are already familiar with Pape's Peppermint, which is said to be a splendid preparation to relieve upset stomach and indigestion.

Worms

Hundreds of children and adults have worms, but arranged for their disease, which is not dangerous, but which causes much suffering. It is a common ailment, and one which is easily cured. It is a common ailment, and one which is easily cured. It is a common ailment, and one which is easily cured.

Advertisement for True's Elixir, featuring an illustration of a man's face and text describing its benefits for various ailments.

ROOSEVELT ENDS HUNT

The Party Sailed Yesterday on the Steamer

DAL FOR KHARTOUM

Five Hundred Specimens Taken—Seventeen Lions, 11 Elephants Lead the List of the Dead Mammals.

Gondokoro, Soudan (on the Upper Nile), March 1.—Col. Roosevelt and the others of his immediate party sailed yesterday on the steamer Dal for Khartoum, where they expect to arrive on March 15. With their departure, the African scientific expedition under the auspices of the Smithsonian institution of Washington and led by the former president of the United States was for all practical purposes brought to a close.

Col. Roosevelt considers that the killing of the giant elands in his recent excursion along the upper reaches of the Nile was a fitting ending of a marvelously successful trip. The results generally, from the standpoint of the hunter and the scientist, have exceeded all expectations.

Col. Roosevelt and his son, Kermit, have killed some 500 specimens of large mammals. The bag includes the following: 17 lions, 11 elephants, 10 buffaloes, 10 black rhinoceroses, 9 white rhinoceroses, 8 hippopotami, 9 giraffes, 3 leopards, 7 cheetahs, 3 giant otters, 3 satras, 1 sitatunga and 2 bongos.

All these were killed in the interest of science, and the specimens will be disposed of accordingly, the greater number going to the Smithsonian institution. Mr. Roosevelt will retain not more than six trophies for himself.

From the point of importance, the most highly prized game may be rated as follows: First, the giant elands, the first complete specimens of which family are now being taken from the country; second, the white rhinoceros; third, the bongos, the first to be stalked and killed by a white man; and fourth, the sitatunga, a species of antelope.

The naturalists secured a remarkable collection, comprising many thousands of birds and other mammals. The results in this line have been most gratifying, and science will be enriched by several new species and an enormous series of the smaller mammals of Africa. The game taken and the collections made constitute a world's record for a similar period of hunting and scientific research in Africa, and the American museum will receive the greatest collection of African fauna in existence.

The work reflects the greatest credit upon all members of the party, whose labors continued unceasingly despite the disadvantages of the climate. All agree that too much praise cannot be accorded R. J. Cunningham, the Englishman, whose management of the expedition was as nearly perfect as could be conceived.

Col. Roosevelt will now devote his time to writing, including the preparation of the addresses which he is to deliver in Europe. He will do no more hunting, unless, during his trip down the Nile, chance throws in his way an opportunity to secure some rare specimens.

In view of the widespread discussion of pure foods and hygienic living, it is of interest to note that during the last ten years the imports of cocoa into the United States have increased from about 23 millions of pounds to over 100 millions, or more than 300 per cent—a natural increase following a better knowledge of the laws of health. For 130 years, Walter Baker & Co., Ltd., Dorchester, Mass., have steadfastly maintained the highest standard for purity and excellence in cocoa and chocolate and have persistently advertised their health-giving qualities, as well as their attractiveness as delicious foods and beverages.

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After All His Trouble. Two men were hurrying along Park row when the wind seemed to be blowing from all directions to the peril of umbrellas and anything not firmly anchored. One of them noticed the handle of a wrecked umbrella which had been thrown into the street along with many others and, stopping to pick it up, remarked to his companion that it was too good to pass. As he stooped a gust of wind captured his hat, and it went spinning along toward St. Paul's chapel, as after it. He ran into a man, slipped, fell in the mud and arose in time to see his hat run over by a truck. At a nearby restaurant, where he was drying his clothes, he said: "I lost a five dollar hat and spoiled a suit of clothes for the handle of a thirty cent umbrella. That would not be so bad, but I see the handle is broken."—New York Tribune.



No Swollen Hands for Anty Drudge.

Mrs. Youngwife—"I'm in a peck of trouble. Some friends are coming to dinner to-night to celebrate Tom's birthday, and my hands are so swollen, I am sure they will be noticed."

Anty Drudge—"What caused your hands to swell like that?"

Mrs. Youngwife—"I had two big baskets full of clothes to boil today—baby does get his frocks so awfully dirty."

Anty Drudge—"If my hands were in the condition of yours, I'd be ashamed of them, too. Why I had four big baskets full, and my hands would do credit to a first class manicure. My dear, use Fels-Naptha soap, as directed on the wrapper, and you will never be worried with swollen hands."

If you hired a girl to do the washing, you wouldn't do it yourself while she sat in the parlor, would you? That would be ridiculous.

Then, when you get a cake of Fels-Naptha soap, use it the Fels-Naptha way and let it do the work. If you use Fels-Naptha as you would other soaps, you are like the woman who does the work herself while her hired girl plays the piano.

A woman who uses Fels-Naptha as if it were just soap, instead of a new way of washing, is misguided or foolish.

The directions on the wrapper are plain: Use Fels-Naptha in cold or lukewarm water, with no boiling and no hard rubbing. That's why Fels-Naptha was invented, to do away with boiling and hard rubbing, save fuel, save health, save time and save the clothes. Make Fels-Naptha do your work for you while you play the piano. Follow the directions on the red and green wrapper.

A LITTLE PLEASANTY.

He Tried it on the Duchess According to the Rules.

"If seated next to a lady at dinner and if at a loss for a topic, touch lightly on the weather. Then turn to dress. If that fails, try a little pleasantry."

With these words from "Etiquette for the People" stamped upon his memory, Mr. Quickerich, who had made a million out of candles and thus gained a sudden entry into society, escorted the Duchess of Dash into the dining room. The multiplicity of forks and knives and spoons staggered him. The soap nearly made him faint. But he took his courage and an olive in both hands and launched forth pluckily.

"Bloomin' dull day, duch, ain't it?" he began, recalling topic No. 1.

"A-hum!" he coughed as he remembered the next topic, dress. "Er—do you wear tassel next the skin?"

A marble shoulder nearly knocked him in the eye—a very cold and frigid shoulder.

"Hum!" muttered Quickerich. "Rather 'ard to get along with. Let's see. I'll try a pleasantry."

The Duchess of Dash's back was turned to him. He protruded a forefinger and jabbed her in the ribs. "Click!" he cried playfully.

And that absolutely did it and himself with it—London Answers.

LIP BUTTONS.

Queer Ornaments Worn by Natives of Northern Alaska.

Perhaps the most interesting archaeological discovery made on the north coast of Alaska has a relation to the present methods of personal decoration now used by the natives of Alaska, the most significant feature of which is the wearing of lip buttons, or labrets, by the men.

The present custom is that when a boy is fourteen or sixteen years of age holes are pierced in his lower lip, one below each corner of the mouth. A small wooden plug is at first inserted to keep the hole from growing together, and month by month a bigger and bigger plug is used, till finally the openings are half an inch in diameter.

At this point the young man begins to wear stone or ivory plugs. These ornaments are put in from the inside ordinarily as one might insert a button into a shirt front. Usually the two buttons worn are each of a different sort, while sometimes only one of the holes is filled, and in summer men are occasionally met with who wear no buttons at all.

When a visitor is seen approaching, however, the ornaments are always inserted, for one does not feel dressed without them. In preparing for sleep they are usually removed.—V. Stefansson in Harper's Magazine.

Free Handed. Club waiter (dashing)—I dreamed last night, sir, that you gave me a sovereign. Stingy Member—Indeed, James? That's a little high for a tip, but—er—you may keep it.—London Telegraph.

Not Exactly a Compliment. Hewitt—Ignorance is bliss. Jewett—You'd better get your life insured Hewitt—What for? Jewett—You're liable to die of joy.—New York Times.

Generous. Stranger—Did you ever reveal your fishing hole to a friend? Angler—Once I did to a friend on his death-bed.—Brooklyn Life.

Advertisement for Balm of Gilead, featuring an illustration of a bottle and text describing its uses for coughs and colds.

Advertisement for Beecham's Pills, featuring an illustration of a woman and text describing its benefits for blood and health.

Advertisement for Dr. T. Felix Goursaud's Oriental Cream or Medical Balm, featuring an illustration of a woman's face and text describing its uses for skin conditions.