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AN UNWELCOME PRESENT.

How Mrs. General Lew Wallace Received the Sultan's Gift of a Circassian Beauty.

The sultan of Turkey has presented General Lew Wallace, the American minister, with a beautiful Circassian girl.—Press Dispatch.

This is all that the modest telegrapher has to say about the occurrence, though the San Francisco Wasp found ever so much more to be told. The fact is that Mrs. Wallace was sitting at the front window of her Constantinople house, on the verge of going down to the bazaar for some embroidered stuffs to send home, when a cavalade drew up before the door, a huge eunuch, arrayed in the sultan's livery, knocked at the door and salam-salammed, and then two eunuchs a size smaller brought in and deposited upon the inside doormat a big-eyed, beautiful Circassian girl, whose lustrous orbs and sparkling jewels were but little obscured by the filmy gauze veiling that covered her from head to foot. Mrs. Wallace stared at the girl in dumb amazement.

"What do you want?" she said. The girl shook her head.

"Mustaby, Mustaby!" cried Mrs. Wallace sharply. "What does this mean?"

Mustaby came from the floor below, where he had been polishing some knives with Bristol brick. He dropped knife and brick when he caught sight of the visitor.

"Ah, ah," he ejaculated with satisfaction, as he saw the imperial insignias; "it is a present. It is a magnificent present. His highness has smiled upon my master and has sent him his choice slave."

"And what is his choice slave going to do in this house, I would like to know?" continued Mrs. Wallace with a vinegary gleam of sarcasm.

"She will bring my master's coffee to him when he awakes in the morning, and affectionately superintend his morning's ablutions."

"She will, will she?" remarked Mrs. Wallace as she gazed her teeth very hard. "She will affectionately superintend his morning ablutions will she?" and she stealthily fingered a bracelet and gazed at the offending present.

Then she walked straight up to the beauty on the door-mat, pointed her index finger out the front door and remarked, "Go 'way!"

The present stared at her stupidly. "Go 'way," I tell you, you are a shameless hussy to come intruding on a respectable family in this way."

The present did not look as though she had done anything particularly infamous, and showed no disposition to move.

Mrs. Wallace could contain herself no longer. She flew at the present, grabbed it by the shoulder, and was bustling it down the stairs when Gen. Wallace came round the corner rather flushed from rapid walking. He took in the situation at a glance.

"Oh, Lewis!" cried his wife, with accentuated horror; "did you ever hear of such a thing?"

Lewis did not look horrified, though he evidently was. He evidently had heard of such things, for there was a doubtful look on his face. Finally he said:

"I don't think, Maria; that I would put it out into the street. It's not to blame, you know."

There was a faint snap in Mrs. Wallace's eyes, but she nodded and lured him on further.

"You see it's a present, and you can't give away or throw away a present, you know. If we could send it back, saying we did not use for it, or that we had one already, and couldn't make it something else, it would be the best way. You have to consult custom and etiquette in these things, you know, dear."

"Y-e-e-s," said Mrs. W., with a sinister sweetness in her compliance.

"Besides he continued, as he carelessly took hold of the present's hand and began stroking the present's brow in a gentle and fatherly way, "I don't really know if it would be so to send it back at all. You see those foreign powers are mighty touchy, and I don't know but if I was to send this present back and turn up my nose at it in such a way they might be mad enough to declare war on the United States right off and massacre us all."

"You would, would you?" remarked Mrs. Wallace in a voice like the first rumblings of a ringing typhoon. "I said to send it back, and you, you bald-headed old fraud! 'Fraid of international complications are you, you salacious old wretch! Now you can just understand this, sir, and right now. If that present doesn't go back to that old beast that sent it in less than ten minutes I'll show you what kind of a Bulgarian atrocity you're married to. I'll show you, I'll show you, I'll show you at the present and inaugurate a panic in dry goods and hair pins and Circassian squeals and male protests, and finally hysterics, as General Wallace called a camel and packed the girl off at hot speed."

Then he went in and caught it—caught it so hot that he remarked to the Vice Consul that sooner than go through the like again he would see the whole continent bathed in blood, and the American eagle bombarded until it hadn't a pin feather to its name.

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A Woman With a Whim.

In hunting up the battle field of Jonesboro I came across the usual score of blind roads leading no one knew where, and in following one through the woods I came to a point where a fence blocked further progress. On the other side of the fence was a farmer hoeing corn, and after the usual talk about the weather I asked:

"Say, colonel, is this the end of this road?"

"This is the end."

"Don't go any further?"

"Not a rod."

"And I've got to ride back?"

"I reckon so, but you'd better come over to the house and have a bite first."

"Won't it put you to any trouble?"

"Not a bit. Ride down into the

acrob and you'll find a low spot where you can jump the horse."

When I had followed directions and reached his side he continued:

"Stranger, I want to pose you in advance. When the Yankees came down here they ripped open our feather beds, broke open our chests, smashed our crockery and stole our chickens. I never laid it out again, but my wife can't forget it. When we reach the house she'll take a squint at you and ask if you are from the north. You'll say yes, and then she'll ask if you was in the Yankee army. You'll say yes, and then she'll open on you and call you all sorts of hard names. You won't pretend to hear a word, and she'll heave chairs and boot-jacks and flat-irons at you and yell at our four dogs to chew you up. That's a whim of hers, you see, but you can't hit it if you are good at dodging, and the dogs don't bite anybody."

"But I don't want to be greeted that way."

"You never mind. It's a whim, and after she has tired herself out jawing and throwing and tearing around, she'll set to and cook the best dinner in the state of Georgia. There was a chap here from Chicago only last week and after he had dodged three chairs, a dozen sticks of wood and six milk-pans, the old woman pulled him off the horse and made him feel so much at home that I reckon he may marry our oldest gal this fall."

I positively declined to take dinner with him, and I think I hear him calling yet as I galloped away.

"Stranger, if you can't face one old woman with a whim now, I don't reckon you bothered our folks very much during the war."

Don't Throw up the Sponge. When suffering humanity are enduring the horrors of dyspepsia, indigestion, or nervous and general debility, they are too often inclined to throw up the sponge and resign themselves to fate. We say, don't do it. Take BUNDOCK BLOOD BITTERS, the unfailing remedy. Price \$1.00. Sold by all Druggists and Dealers.

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