

arms, on which the quarterings were conspicuous only by their absence, the fashion degenerated into vulgarity and ridicule, and to-day is almost entirely abandoned.

#### Queer Funeral Customs

ONE of the queerest features in connection with this court mourning abroad is the species of grim comedy, which provides that a royal personage shall be regarded as alive until finally laid in the tomb. It is an etiquette which belongs to a bygone age, and savors of something akin to mockery. Thus, it is not until the Lord Chamberlain breaks his wand of office over the coffin of his royal master or mistress as it is being lowered into the vault or tomb, that he and all the members of the household are relieved of their duties; and at nearly every European court it is customary to this day for the illustrious dead to hold a sort of levee or reception just before their interment, when all the great officers of state and members of the court pass one by one before the corpse, bowing low, and kissing its cold and clammy hand.

Even still more strange are the ceremonies that used to be enforced in France when that country was still subject to a monarchical régime. During the entire forty days that the body of the sovereign lay in state in the Cathedral of Saint Denis, the court ceremonies were carried on within the abbey as though the monarch or prince still lived: the royal table would be set every night in the refectory, and the Grand Master of the Ceremonies, when dinner was brought up, would proceed in full uniform to the chancel of the church, where the corpse lay rigid and cold, and with a low obeisance would exclaim, "Sire, the dinner is served, according to Your Majesty's order."

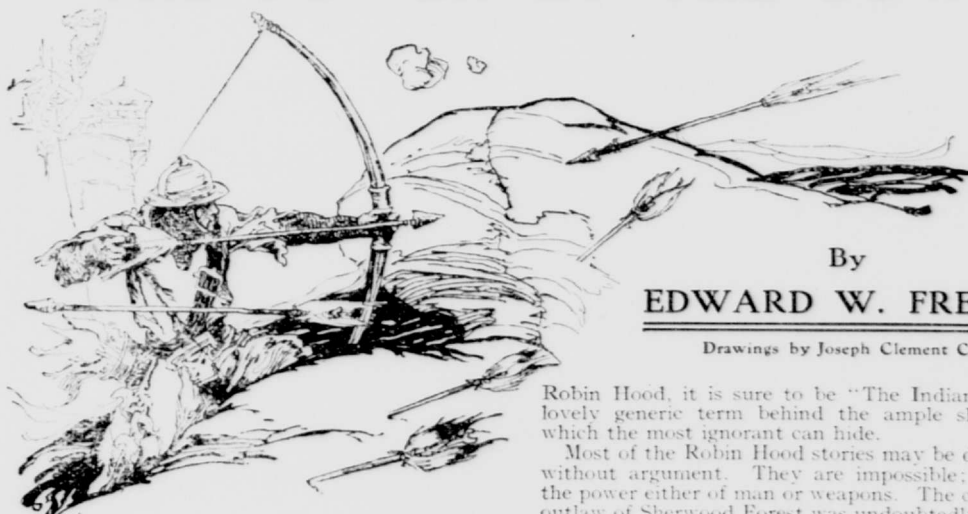
Then the Chamberlain, standing on duty beside the corpse, would respond with great dignity, "His

Majesty has been pleased to dine already, and desires to remain undisturbed." Whereupon the Master of Ceremonies would back out, with the three customary low obeisances to the dead, and would order the meal to be taken away.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that the admission of the Empire of Japan into the concert of Great Powers has resulted in a source of considerable embarrassment to the various royal families of Europe, just in connection with the question of mourning. The court of Tokio is extremely punctilious about going into mourning on the occasion of the death of any foreign sovereign or royal personage; in fact, it has been known to go into mourning for European royalties as many as eight times in one year. When, however, the Mikado's mother died sometime ago, and her demise was officially notified to the various foreign Governments by the Japanese Ambassadors, who added that "Her Majesty has passed away after receiving the last sacraments of the Shinto faith," no notice was taken thereof, the European courts taking the ground that as long as a monarch went in openly for polygamy, maintaining a harem, as do the rulers of China, of Turkey, of Persia, of Egypt, and of Morocco, they cannot expect to be treated on the same social footing as Christian rulers of the West.

England's relations with Japan, however, have become such that she can no longer afford to affront her by any neglect of such courtesies, and there is no doubt that other European sovereigns will follow suit when King Edward next has occasion to order through his Lord Chamberlain in the London Official Gazette court mourning for some member of the imperial family of Japan who has passed away "furnished with the last rites" of that mysterious Shinto faith, which is altogether beyond the comprehension of white men and Christians.

## THE POWER OF THE BOW



By

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Drawings by Joseph Clement Coll

Robin Hood, it is sure to be "The Indians," that lovely generic term behind the ample shelter of which the most ignorant can hide.

Most of the Robin Hood stories may be dismissed without argument. They are impossible; beyond the power either of man or weapons. The charming outlaw of Sherwood Forest was undoubtedly a great archer, very likely the best who ever lived; but if he had heard the stories of the feats which are attributed to him he would have used the peeled willow wand as a quarterstaff, and laid it on lustily at shorter range than a hundred rods.

As for the prevailing and persistent belief in the skill of the North American Indians, that too is mostly myth. They were, and are, among the poorest archers who have ever lived. The popular misconception concerning their shooting has come about very simply and naturally. The few persons now living who saw the Plains Indians in the days of the bow and arrow are fond of telling of the ease with which the Redmen shot their arrows entirely through the body of a buffalo. This need not be doubted for a moment. The Indians used short, powerful bows, and they rode up to within a few feet of their quarry before they loosed the shaft. There are scores of men to-day, white men, who practise archery in England and America merely as a pastime, who could do the same thing with ease.

As to the accuracy of Indian archery, most of the stories regarding it may be traced to summer boarders, who have seen Indians knock pennies from the ends of split sticks. No doubt they do this; but the distance is usually only ten or fifteen yards, and sometimes less; and by no means do they hit the penny at every shot, as the summer boarders commonly report.

The fact of the matter is that the only bow which is entitled to any respect as a weapon of accuracy is the English longbow. I do not mean by this that a good bow must necessarily have been made in England, for quite as good archery tackle is made in the United States; but I mean only that the bow should have an approximate length of six feet, should be made of one of the two or three woods which the experience of a thousand years has shown to be the best, and should have certain characteristics of shape which the same experience has justified. Let us take such a bow as this, with the carefully made arrows intended for it, and see what it is capable of doing. There are abundant records, going back many years, both in England and Amer-

ica, so that there is no need to draw upon anything but facts.

#### The Greatest Modern Archer

THE greatest archer of modern times was Horace Ford, an Englishman, who did his remarkable shooting in the '50's and '60's. The regulation target used then for archery as a sport was the same as that used to-day. It was four feet in diameter, about as large as the end of a hog's head, and divided into a central circle, nine inches in diameter, called the gold, and four rings—red, blue, black, and white—each about four and one-half inches wide.

Shooting seventy-two arrows at this target at one hundred yards, Ford more than once made seventy-one hits, and seldom missed more than two or three times. At eighty yards and at sixty yards he rarely failed to put all his arrows into the target. But that is not all. At one hundred yards he placed in the gold—the nine-inch center—on more than one occasion all three of the arrows which it is customary to shoot at one "end," that is, before walking down to the target to recover the shafts. At sixty yards his shooting was usually so accurate that every shot of twenty-four successive arrows would hit inside a twenty-inch circle.

No one in America has ever quite equaled the splendid shooting of Ford at target; but Will H. Thompson of Seattle—Washington, Robert Williams of Washington, D. C., and George Phillips Bryant of Boston have made scores which are not unworthy of comparison with his.

#### Shooting on the Wing

THERE is another kind of archery,—in some ways a higher and more charming kind,—in which an American has made records that not even Robin Hood need have been ashamed of. The kind of archery referred to is "roving,"—shooting at any mark that offers, bird or beast or inanimate object, at unknown and constantly varying distances,—and the American who was the master archer at this was the late Maurice Thompson. With him the bow was not only the implement of a delightful pastime, it was a weapon with which to hunt wild game and procure a dinner in the wilderness. How well he had mastered his weapon may be judged from the fact that he was seen to hit a lead pencil five times in succession, stuck up in the ground at a distance of ten yards; and at twelve yards he broke thirty-seven out of fifty glass balls thrown into the air. That is wing shooting which many a man would be satisfied to do with the shotgun.

Thompson's hunting with the longbow included the killing of hundreds of birds on the wing. Some of his feats were transfixing a single plover sitting on the beach at a distance of one hundred yards,—though this was no doubt partly chance,—and killing bear, panthers, and much other four-footed game with the bow and arrow.

The reader who bears in mind that nothing quoted here is from hearsay, but in every case is a matter of record, will now perceive that the bow in the hands of one who knows how to use it is a surprisingly accurate weapon. Indeed, the greatest charm of archery is the accuracy which lies in these simple implements, coupled with the extreme difficulty of so adjusting the nervous and muscular tension as to develop that accuracy.

#### The Bow's Extreme Range

THE extreme range of the bow is another matter about which there is much misconception. In this field too the romancer is at home and busy, and it is more difficult to dislodge him from it than from the field of accuracy.

The reason is plain. The bow, unlike the rifle, is a weapon the range of which depends entirely upon the strength and mastery of him who uses it. To-day archery is merely a sport, practised by comparatively few. The skill of those few is pretty well known, and therefore it is not at all difficult to fix the extreme range of the bow and arrow of to-day.

But when one goes back a few hundred years to that dim antiquity in which the romancer loves to take refuge, the case is different. Then the bow was the national weapon of defense; and because it was that, men were raised up to the use of it from boyhood. The ability to shoot far is dependent almost as much upon the knack of using the muscles as upon the possession of them, and it is not incredible that in times when this knack was acquired in youth and exercised all through life, archers arose who, having both the knowledge and the strength, were able

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A YEAR or two ago, with four or five friends, I was practising archery in a large field near a factory. It was six o'clock, and the workmen were just coming out. A number of them stopped to watch the shooting.

Our target was an eighteen-inch Japanese lawn mat stuck up at the distance of sixty yards on a slender stick, as one might impale a cocky on a knitting needle thrust through it edgewise. When the target was hit near the center it kept its position, face toward us; but a shot near either side was likely to turn it edge toward us.

While the factory hands were watching, one of us hit the mat on the side. It spun part way round, so that only the edge was presented for the rest of us to shoot at.

"Come, Jim, run down and fix the target! You moved it," said one of the other shooters.

"Oh, never mind," cried another member of the group. "I shall turn it back again with this shot."

The rest of us laughed; but with the very next shot our friend did exactly what he had promised to do; not only hit the mat, but turned it back again until it faced us squarely.

We knew, of course, that it was chance; but the workmen from the factory did not. A week or two later I heard one of them telling a companion that at sixty yards one of our number could plant an arrow exactly where he wanted to. That is the way the stories of wonderful shooting usually arise.

#### What Really Can Be Done

BUT now what is it really possible to do with the bow and arrow? How far can one shoot, how accurately can he direct the arrow, and how much penetration has it?

First, as to the matter of accuracy. No one who is unfamiliar with archery seems able to say more than a few words about it before he gets round to Robin Hood, and his peeled willow wand set up at a hundred rods, and the "hart" which he "caused to die" at the same distance, and the arrow of his rival which he split with his own shaft as it quivered there in the very center of the target. If it is not