

THE STOLEN MODEL

How the Plan of a Torpedo Destroyer Was Obtained For the Russian Government.

"Read that, Valini," said the dockyard chief, handing me an official communication from the minister of marine. It ran:

"I have received positive information that the Russian government has in some way obtained possession of the secret of the new torpedo destroyer model No. 7912 and is building according to our model. Please make every inquiry immediately to find out how the plan of the model has come into its possession. You have full authority to adopt all necessary means. Need I impress the importance of discovering the leakage?"

"It is inexplicable," I said. "No one has seen the model except you and me and the members of the council unless, indeed, the inventor has driven a double bargain or some one has obtained a copy of the model from his workshop."

"I have thought of that," said the chief, "but I think that solution very unlikely. He will probably be here in a few minutes."

"What about the ministers? Could there be any leakage from the council?" I queried.

"I would rather you would suggest that than that I should," he replied dryly. "No, my dear Valini, the responsibility rests on your shoulders and mine, and we must clear ourselves at all costs."

At this moment Brazier, the inventor, entered the room.

"You have sent for me," he said shortly.

"The matter is very important," said the chief, "as a foreign government—no matter which—has managed to obtain a copy of your model No. 7912."

"What, the torpedo destroyer?" exclaimed Brazier.

"We want to know who has access to your models beside yourself," said the chief.

"No one. I am not a fool. I trust no one. I speak to no one when there is a work on hand till I hand it to the government for consideration. No one touches the model but myself. Every model up to the present time that I have submitted has been made completely from first to last, by myself."

"Could any one enter your workshop," queried the chief, "without your knowing it?"

"Certainly not," he replied decidedly. "It would be quite impossible. The room in which I work is on the ground floor and built of solid stone, with a concrete foundation."

"How is the room entered?" asked the chief.

"There is only one approach to it, through an iron door which opens into my sleeping room, and if the door were opened it would disturb electric bells over my head. So you see, my dear friends, I do not sell secrets without taking care that they shall not become public property first. No, no; the secret did not come from me, my friends. It must have been stolen from you."

"The model might have been sold on the double," remarked the chief.

Brazier drew himself up and said:

"You are an honorable man, and your friend here is an honorable man, but you are, fortunately, not the only honorable men that this country possesses."

The examination of Brazier's workshop only confirmed his view in every point, and there could be no question of the secret of the model having been discovered or got at surreptitiously without the connivance of Brazier himself.

We then called on the minister of marine and, having told him the details of our search, offered to hand in our resignations with our official reports on the search.

"I should not accept them," he said kindly. "This particular matter is, after all, of great importance only that we may detect the leakage, and I leave the matter in your hands, gentlemen. Keep your eyes and ears open and, if you added, with a dry smile, 'don't give up the search.'"

Three months had elapsed and had been fruitless when one day Brazier was announced. He came into the chief's room, his face furrowed with thought, but with a triumphant gleam in his eyes.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I have made many experiments to try to find out how my model was stolen. At last I am near success."

"How?" we both queried simultaneously.

"Gently, gently, my dear sirs. It has taken me three months' hard work and anxious thought to get on the track. Now is the time to act. No; no questions now, but come with me in the train tomorrow, for every one in the town knows that tomorrow I bring my great new invention to show to the ministry. But come armed."

On the next day, when the train entered the station, the chief, Brazier (who carried a red leather case) and I took seats in the corner of the smoking compartment of the car. As soon as the train started a large, burly looking man came in and joined us.

He had a large black leather satchel case in one hand, which he carried by a handle, from the center of which rose a little brass knob like a moult. In the other hand he carried a heavy stick. As he sat down Brazier touched his revolver pocket, making a sign to us to be on the alert.

The stranger placed his satchel case beside our red case, and we noticed that never once did he take his hand off the handle or remove his fingers from the brass knob in the center.

"Brazier leaned over to us and while

perced:
"He steals my models by the Roentgen rays. Mon Dieu, is he not clever? Be ready when I say, 'Now.'"

Whether the stranger heard the words or not I do not know; but, anyhow, he was startled by seeing Brazier whisper to us and sprang to his feet, bringing his stick to the bayonet charge, as if to thrust with it at any one who attempted to approach him.

The chief had his hand on his revolver when the stranger sprang up and, on the instant, covered him with it. Like lightning he struck the bayonet charge with the stick. It burst with a tremendous explosion, shattering the chief's hand and covering me and Brazier with fragments of broken window glass.

When the smoke cleared, we found that the stranger had taken advantage of the confusion, thrown open the carriage door and jumped for his liberty, leaving the suit case behind. We found afterward that it contained a most ingenious variation of the Roentgen apparatus, which would enable a clever mechanic to obtain the working details of any model by photography. The instrument is now in the bureau of the ministry. The stranger we never heard of again, so we presumed he was lucky in his jump and escape.

The only one who suffered much was our beloved chief, who has never completely recovered from the shock and the operation that followed his share in the discovery of how model No. 7912 was stolen.—St. Louis Star.

Confucius.

Confucius calls himself a transmitter only, not a maker, believing in and loving the ancients. When speaking of himself, he says: "At 15 I had my mind bent on learning; at 30 I stood firm; at 40 I had no doubts; at 50 I knew the decrees of heaven; at 60 my ear was an obedient organ for the reception of truth; at 70 I could follow what my heart desired without transgressing what was right."

Confucius died in 478 B. C., complaining that among all the princes of the empire there was not one who had adopted his principles, not one who would obey his lessons. This shows—what is, in fact, confirmed from other sources—that he himself was not an active reformer, so that while alive he scarcely produced a ripple on the smooth and silent surface of the religious thought of his own country. He was, no doubt, in advance of his contemporaries, but he took his stand chiefly on certain virtues that had come down to him from ancient times, and his faith in these virtues and in their coming revival has certainly not been belied by what happened after his death.

His grandson already speaks of him as the ideal of a sage, as a sage is the ideal of all humanity. But even this grandson was far from claiming divine honors for his grandfathers, though he certainly seems to exalt his wisdom and virtue beyond the limits of human nature.—Max Muller in Nineteenth Century.

The Payment He Asked.

Mme. Melissier, the wife of the noted French artist, evidently was not overabundantly supplied with fact. It is told of her that one day she sent for the family physician, and he hurried over to the house, thinking some illness had overtaken the artist. It was not the master of the house, however. It was only the lapdog. The doctor pocketed his pride and most zealously attended the patient, which soon recovered. At the end of the year he sent in his bill, but among the items there was none for attendance on a dog. Mme. Melissier noticed the omission and called the physician's attention to it.

"You must charge for that also," she said. "I insist upon it."

"By no means," was the reply. "I am not a veterinary surgeon. I was very glad to do the dog a service, but really I can't be paid for it."

"But I insist upon it!" said the lady.

"Well, then," returned the doctor, "as the hinges on my gate are somewhat rusty M. Melissier may bring his brush and paint them for me."

But Melissier in the role of a gate painter is not known to history.

The Highest Art.

The word "artistic" has been so misapplied that the majority of people suppose it means something rather disorderly and haphazard. How often literature gives us the trim, precise maiden aunt, with her narrow, intense love of exact outline, and the art loving niece, all on fire with raptures over "color harmonies" and contempt for everything which is not picturesque! Let us give our sympathy, however, to the derided aunt. Grace for color is a lower degree of the sense of beauty than appreciation of symmetrical arrangement. Sculpture is a finer achievement of the intellect than painting. Savages and ignorant children can take pleasure in color display, but only an educated mind is moved through effects of form.—Florence Hull Winterburn in Woman's Home Companion.

Lifting Gladiolus Bulbs.

So long as the leaves of the gladiolus continue green the bulbs are to remain undisturbed in the ground, the green leaves being an evidence that the preparation for next summer's blood is not completed. The completion will be shown by the leaves turning yellow and dying or, what amounts to the same thing, being killed by frost. In either case, when the leaves are dead, the bulbs are to be dug up, the top cut off about an inch above the bulb, and after drying a few days in the shade the old bulb (which has become worthless) is to be separated from the new one—more than one sometimes—which has formed above it and thrown away. The new bulbs—the ones which formed above the old bulb—are then to be laid away safe from frost until spring.

MAYONNAISE DRESSING.

How to Make This Necessary Component of the Salad.

The most important element in the dressing of a salad is the oil. And remember there is no economy in spoiling your salad by using oil of poor quality. Although a dinner may be perfect in every other detail, the poor quality of the salad will be the only part of it remembered or commented upon. To insure success in your undertaking you must be sure that everything needed is thoroughly chilled before beginning the work—the oil, plate, eggs and even the fork.

The uncertainty and much of the labor are lessened by using a mayonnaise mixer. But a soup plate and silver or wooden salad fork will answer. Unless you intend making a pint of dressing use but one egg. Separate the yolk very carefully from the white, drop the yolk into the soup plate and stir rapidly with the fork until the yolk is broken and well mixed.

Now add the oil, drop by drop at first, being careful to stir always in the same direction. If your plate and the oil are perfectly cold, the mixture will soon begin to thicken. Now add a few drops of tarragon vinegar or lemon juice; then add more oil, and as the emulsion becomes thick you can add the oil faster, in a slow, steady stream. Always stirring, not beating, continue to add the acid, a little at a time and just enough to keep the dressing from separating. Continue in this manner until you have used half a pint of oil. Season with salt and cayenne and give a good, vigorous stirring. When finished, the mayonnaise should be like thick, smooth jelly. A perfect dressing must not be too acid, as that destroys the delicate flavor of the olive oil.

How to Use Bits of Soap.

Small pieces of soap that accumulate in the soap dish may be used in either one of two ways. Some housekeepers make what they call soap bags, putting all the small odds and ends into little bags made of old toweling. The bag may then be used like a cake of soap. Another good method of saving the bits is to shave them up and put them into twice their measure of boiling water. When the soap is dissolved, powdered oatmeal, sufficient to make a stiff batter, is added. The mixture is turned into molds and, when dry, makes an excellent soap for the skin.

How to Renovate Scorched Linen.

A poor ironer is one of the trials of housekeeping. Scorched clothes are often discarded as hopeless, but if not too much burned may be made all right by the patient use of onion juice. Boil the onion and squeeze out the juice. Mix it with an ounce of fuller's earth, a little shredded soap and a wineglassful of vinegar. Heat the mixture till the soap is dissolved. Then wait till it is cold before applying. Rub it well over the scorched place, leave to dry and then put the garment in the regular washing.

How to Make Rice Savory.

Four ounces of rice, four ounces grated cheese, one ounce of butter, half an ounce of flour, half a pint of milk or water rice was boiled in, salt, cayenne pepper and a little made mustard if liked. Boil the rice in water. Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the flour and mix well, put in milk or rice water stir till the sauce boils, then add the rice and season well. Stir three ounces of grated cheese into the rice and pour all into a buttered pie dish. Sprinkle the rest of the cheese on the top, brown in a hot oven.

How to Make Mince Pudding.

Mince some beef, season it with herbs and a little onion, dredge thickly with flour and moisten with a little gravy. Roll some suet crust out very thin and with it line a basin; place a thick layer of the meat at the bottom and then a layer of pastry, and so on till the basin is full. Cover neatly as you would a steak pudding. Boil gently for two and one-half hours, turn out to serve and pour gravy round. This makes an excellent dinner for children.

How to Boil Salt Mackerel.

Let the mackerel soak 12 hours, changing the water several times. Cover with fresh water, add a dash of vinegar, a bay leaf, a sprig of parsley and half an onion, sliced. When the water boils remove the kettle to a place where the water will bubble slightly on one side. Let stand 15 minutes, drain the fish, dress on a folded napkin, surround with parsley and serve with cream horse radish sauce served in a gravy boat.

How to Polish Steel Andrews.

Rust on steel fire irons will no doubt yield to this treatment: First rub the whole surface with paraffin, then with sweet oil, and let them remain with the oil on them for two days. Afterward scour with unslicked lime finely powdered until all spots disappear. Before putting your fire irons away for any length of time wrap each separately in something woolen, old or new, and pack away in a dry place.

How to Choose Poultry.

The male fowl should be chosen in preference to the female, and the shorter the spurs the younger the bird. The claws and beak are easily broken in a young bird. Short boned and short legged poultry is usually considered the most delicate. Ducks, geese and turkeys should have the feet and legs limp and moist. If they are dry and stiff it is a stale bird.

How to Use Stale Bread.

Soak a pint of stale bread in a quart of sour milk overnight. In the morning sift a teaspoonful of soda and a bit of salt in a cup of flour, stir into the soaked bread, beating out all lumps. Fry as griddlecakes. Serve hot, with syrup or butter and sugar.

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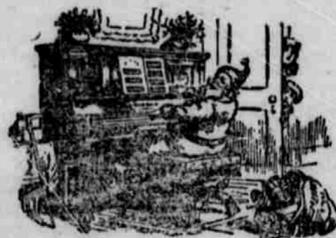
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