

# POST NUMBER EIGHT

By BEATRICE TUCKER.

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During the Spanish-American war my regiment of United States infantry occupied a single position in Cuba for quite awhile. We were not very near an enemy and kept out no vedettes or pickets, the colonel being satisfied with the usual chain of sentinels. There was one sentry beat overlooking a valley from which every man posted at the evening relief disappeared. No cry, no sound of any kind, was heard at post No. 8, but the sentry placed there was not found when the corporal of the guard took a man to relieve him, nor was he ever heard of afterward. Some concluded that an enemy crawled up from below, stabbed him and took his body away. Some concluded that the post was haunted and the sentry was carried away by a ghost.

When the first man disappeared the officer of the guard reported the matter to the colonel, who, thinking that it would be better that the next man to stand post on No. 8 should not know of the occurrence, ordered the officer to keep the matter a secret and if there were inquiries about the missing man among his comrades to give out that he had been ordered away on a special service. So the second man did not know of the mystery of the first, nor the third of the second, nor the fourth of the third. The fourth man was the last to vanish, for after he had gone the regiment was ordered to the front.

I was a member of Company C, and we knew more about the disappearance than the officers thought we did, but we didn't know what had become of the sentries. It was the prevailing opinion that the men were murdered by hostile Spanish citizens, but with what object we were ignorant. After the war closed I came north with the rest of the command, but eight years later went to Cuba on business, and there one day, while passing a sugar plantation, who should I see sitting before a workman's cabin but John Henderson, the last man who had disappeared from sentry post No. 8. At first he pretended not to know me, but I looked him square in the eye and told him he couldn't fool me. Then he owned up and told me the following story:

"When placed on post and left by the retreating relief I stood for a while uncertain whether to risk death by some unearthly means or by being shot for deserting my beat. I knew that three men had attempted to hold it against natural or supernatural enemies and failed. While I was deliberating I heard a girl's laugh and, looking down, saw a merry face and two black eyes peering up at me. The girl had a basket on her arm full of flowers and began to pelt me with them. I supposed she was simply passing that way and didn't connect her with the ghost who had spirited away the other sentries. I seized one or two of the posies and threw them back at her. She was too pretty to keep at a distance, and I invited her to come up and sit with me on the slope. It wasn't long before I had my arm around her and stole a kiss.

"She spoke some English and, pointing to a house below, told me she was on her way to a dance to take place there. We soon heard the sound of music, and the girl begged me to go down with her, have a dance and get back before the relief came. I was tempted and fell. I went with her, danced several times and was thinking of returning when I was surrounded by the men in the room and made a prisoner.

"They were about to take me out to shoot me when the girl who had arranged for my capture stood in the door and jabbered Spanish at them with constantly growing irritation. I didn't know then what she said, but learned afterward that, having given them three victims, she wished the fourth to be spared. Finally she prevailed, partly by threats to expose them to our troops above and partly by her influence over them. I was released and, accompanied by the girl, started up to camp. I had plenty of time to get there, but was dallying with her, she showing plainly enough that she had gone soft on me. I tried to tear myself away from her, but couldn't. I knew she had betrayed three other men, but her preference for me caught me, and while I was trying to get away from her I heard the relief visit my post. Then I knew I was too late, for if I went to camp I would be shot for being absent on my post.

"That threw the whole matter into the hands of the girl. It was the same as having sold my soul to the devil. I deserted, and we went away together. She deserted, too, for she never went back home. Her people were Spaniards, and the men who had been bent on shooting me were Spaniards. They lived about there with their families, and had the girl told on them, as she threatened to do, our colonel would have arrested and shot them. They had only consented to let me go on her promise that she would keep me from getting back to the command. Of course, not understanding Spanish, I didn't know this at the time or I should have been forewarned."

Henderson had married the girl and they had several children. In that country women fade early, and upon an introduction I found the wife homely enough to use for a scarecrow. I have remembered the incident since as a warning to all men not to be led away from their duty by a pretty face. Henderson was living in terror, conscious of being a deserter, and all because he had listened to a siren.

### Josephine's Many Names.

Josephine, empress of the French, was Yvette to her intimate friends. Her name in reality was Marie Josephine Rose. Napoleon after the marriage exacted that she should be known as Josephine. He had a mania for rebaptizing the women of his entourage. He made his sister Marianne an Elise, of Annonciade a Caroline, of Paulette a Pauline.

Among her numerous friends Josephine remained Yvette. Barras never called her otherwise.

The pope was so unfamiliar with her name that when he sent his benediction the letter borne by his legate was addressed to "Our Sister In Jesus Christ, Victoria Bonaparte."

In 1814, on the departure for Elba, the Debats designated Josephine under the paraphrase "the mother of Prince Eugene."

At Rueil her tomb bears this simple inscription, "A Josephine, Eugene et Hortense, 1825." The restoration did not permit her recognition as empress. —Cri de Paris.

### What Was the Matter.

E. A. Sothern once told a dilemma he got into:

"I was acting in a comedy when I had to speak the words, 'What's the matter?' Well, one night I was rather slow about taking my cue and was prompted. I forgot myself for the moment, and when the words came, 'What's the matter?' I thought something or other had occurred out of the common. I paused and looked round. Everything seemed normal, and the stage waited. Then came another 'What's the matter?' from the O. P. side. They were all getting anxious behind the scenes, and so was I, for that matter. I looked myself up and down and then scanned my fellow actor, but for the life of me couldn't see anything wrong. At last an audible whisper came: 'Go on with your lines, you idiot! What's the matter with you?' Then it suddenly dawned on me where I was, but the house had tumbled to the situation and came down in convulsions." —Minneapolis Journal.

### The Substitution.

It is a well known fact that both Sir Arthur Sullivan and Sir W. S. Gilbert had a horror of the titles of their operas becoming known until the very night of their performance. This fear that they might be forestalled created considerable confusion at the initial production of "Iolanthe; or the Peer and the Peri." The opera was rehearsed for weeks under the title of "Perola." It was only at the dress rehearsal that the company was instructed to substitute the name "Iolanthe" for that of "Perola" wherever it occurred in the text or lyrics. It was no easy task to replace vocally and in the dialogue a name of three syllables for one of four. Sullivan, however, said (maybe aside to one or two of the actors who were nervous: "Go ahead and sing the music. Gilbert won't be in front" (Gilbert never attended the first night, "so use any name that you think of first if you are rattled. No one in the audience will be any wiser." —Boston Post.

### Fourteenth Century Doctors.

Synge's "Social Life in England" quotes a number of fourteenth century hints to success for physicians: Suppose you know nothing, say there is an obstruction of the liver. Perhaps the patient will say, "Nay, master, it is my head or legs that trouble me." Repeat that it comes from the liver, and especially use the word "obstruction," for patients do not understand it, which is important.

Never dine with a patient who has not paid you. It will be cheaper to get your dinner at an inn, for such feasts are usually deducted from the surgeon's fee.

When you are treating a wound or accident, the friends of the patient should be excluded, for they may faint and cause a disturbance, but sometimes a higher fee may be got from persons present fainting and breaking their heads against wood and the like than from the principal patient.

### Secret Society Among Sese Islanders.

The Sese Islanders have attained a peculiar notoriety in Uganda because of a secret society called the Bachi-chi, which is not a burial society, although its members take a deep and intelligent interest in all deaths and burials in their midst. In the more retired villages, although greatly discouraged by the British authorities, it is said to be still the custom for the sorrowing relatives to bear the body of the deceased wrapped in bark on a rough bier to some forest thicket, desolate ravine or other unfrequented spot, where it is left unburied by the bearers, who never revisit the place again. The Bachi-chi, who are denizens of a neighboring village, and distant relatives of the deceased avoid the necessity of burial or cremation and show their respect for the deceased by simply eating him. —National Magazine.

**A Disappointment.**  
"Yes," says the lady after an acquaintance of ten or fifteen years before has been renewed, "I remember you perfectly."  
"Indeed?" murmurs the gratified man. "I am glad to know that."  
"Yes; at one time I thought of marrying you."  
"Oh," he replies dejectedly. "I thought for the moment that there might have been something that made me different from all the other men you ever knew." —Life.

**A Stranger to His Ways.**  
A distinguished bishop of the Episcopal church, arriving late at a small town one night, found the hotel closed, and, hammering at the door for admission, a neighbor struck his head out of an adjoining window with, "Say, stranger, knock like the devil!" to which the bishop replied, "I don't know how."  
Tommy—Paw, what is three card monte? Mr. Tucker—it's the most diabolical, infernal swindle that ever anybody—er—oh, it's some sort of a gambling game with cards, I believe, Tommy.—Chicago Tribune.

**Hit Home.**  
Tommy—Paw, what is three card monte? Mr. Tucker—it's the most diabolical, infernal swindle that ever anybody—er—oh, it's some sort of a gambling game with cards, I believe, Tommy.—Chicago Tribune.

**Not Too Often.**  
"They tell me New England is full of old maids," said the Philadelphia girl. "Now, I suppose you Boston girls don't often marry?" "No; only once, as a rule," replied the Boston girl.—Philadelphia Record.

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## CITY NOTICES.

### RESOLUTION

Be it resolved by the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon:

Whereas, there has been filed with the city council of the city of Medford a petition signed by more than one-fifth of the qualified electors of said city, as shown by the vote cast at the last municipal election held in said city, petitioning that the boundaries of said city of Medford be altered and new territory included therein as hereinafter set forth, it is therefore resolved: That the following question be submitted to the electors of said city, and also to the electors residing in the territory hereinafter set forth:

Shall the boundaries of the city of Medford be altered by including therein the following described territory, to-wit:

Commencing at a point on the present boundary line of the city of Medford, in section nineteen (19), township thirty-seven (37), range one (1) west of Willamette meridian, in Jackson county, Oregon, due west from the northwest corner of Sunrise Home Park addition, in said section, as laid in the plat thereof, on file in the office of the recorder of conveyances in said county; thence east one thousand four hundred and fifty (1450) feet, more or less, to said northwest corner of said Sunrise Home Park addition; thence east on the north line of said addition eight hundred and fifty-three (853) feet to the east line of donation claim No. forty-two (42); thence south on the east line of said donation claim No. 42 five hundred forty-seven and sixteen-hundredths (547.16) feet to the north line of Queen Anne addition to the city of Medford; the same being the section line between sections nineteen (19) thirty (30) of said township and range; thence east on said section line two thousand two hundred and fifty-three (2253) feet to the north-

east corner of said Queen Anne addition to the city of Medford thence south on the east line of said Queen Anne addition and said line extended ten hundred and forty feet to a point one hundred and thirty-two feet north of the northeast corner of donation claim No. 44 in section twenty-nine of said township and range; thence east 1544.4 feet, thence south 1669.8 feet; thence west 1544.4 feet; thence northerly ten feet more or less to a point on the east line of said donation land No. 44 1537.8 feet south of the northeast corner of said donation land claim No. 44; thence south seventy-two degrees and thirty minutes west five hundred fifty and eight-tenths (550.8) feet to the southeast corner of Imperial addition to the city of Medford; thence along the boundary line of said Imperial addition south seventy-two degrees sixteen minutes west thirteen hundred eighty-two and seven-tenths feet; thence north thirty-four degrees west one hundred thirty-eight and six-tenths feet; thence north thirty-nine degrees west one hundred seventy-five and five-tenths (175.5) feet; thence north forty-six degrees fifty-seven minutes west three hundred thirty-eight (338) feet; thence north nine degrees four minutes west eight hundred sixty-two and six-tenths (862.6) feet to the northwest corner of said Imperial addition and to the present boundary line of the city limits of said city; thence in a northeasterly direction following the present boundary line of the city of Medford to the southeast corner of Lindley addition; thence following said present boundary lines of said city in a general northerly and westerly direction to the place of commencement.

Resolved further, that said question be submitted to said electors of the city of Medford and to said electors of said above described territory at a special election to be held for that purpose, said election to be held on the 23d day of July, 1909.

Resolved further, that a special election in and for the city of Medford and in and for the territory hereinafter described, to be held on the 23d day of July, 1909, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 5 o'clock p. m., is hereby called for the purpose of submitting at said election said question above set forth.

The following are hereby designated as the places in said city at which the polls will be open within said city:

First ward—Commercial club rooms.

Second ward—Hotel Nash sample room.

Third ward—City hall.

The following is hereby designated as the place in the territory hereinafter described at which the polls will be open:

Residence of E. E. Kelley.

The following are hereby appointed and designated as judges and clerks of said election:

First ward in said city—A. C. Hubbard, judge; C. W. Davis, judge and clerk; J. E. Aston, judge and clerk.

Second ward in said city—J. H. Atwell, judge; Wm. Ulrich, judge and clerk; H. H. Harvey, judge and clerk.

Third ward in said city—M. F. McCown, judge; S. V. Davis, judge and clerk; H. A. Thierolf, judge and clerk.

In the territory hereinafter described—George Miller, judge; E. E. Kelley, judge and clerk; Clarence Pierce, judge and clerk.

The electors of said city of Medford and the electors of the territory hereinafter described are hereby invited to vote upon said proposition by placing upon their ballots "For Annexation," or "Against Annexation," or words equivalent thereto.

Resolved further, that notice of all matters herein set forth be given by publishing this resolution for four weeks prior to said election in The Medford Daily Tribune, a newspaper of general circulation in said city of Medford, and in the territory above described, and also by posting four copies of this resolution in four public places in said city and in four public places in the territory above described for four weeks prior to said election.

The foregoing resolution was passed on the 23d day of June, 1909, by the city council of the city of Medford by the following vote: Merrick, aye; Welch, aye; Emarick, aye; Wortman, aye; Eifert, aye; Demmer, aye.

Approved June 23d, 1909.

W. H. CANON, Mayor.

Attest: BENJ. M. COLLINS, Recorder.

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