THE MISSING MESSENGER

IT WAS on June 14, 1904, that Kent Loomis, brother of F. B. Loomis, the assistant secretary of state, sailed from New York on board the Kaiser Wilhelm II, bearing with him the text of a treaty between the United States and Abyasinia-a treaty concerning which there had been much conjecture and speculation on the part of certain European powers.

Under ordinary circumstances Loomis would have taken his wife and child with him; on this occasion, he considered it best to leave them behind in Parkersburg, W. V., both on account of the fact that he was on a diplomatic mission and because he intended to participate in some big-game hunting after delivering the treaty to King

Nothing unusual occurred on the trip until the morning of June 20, the day on which the steamer was due to dock at Plymouth, England. It was then noted that Loomis' seat at the captain's table was empty and a steward was dispatched to find out if he were Ili. A few minutes later the steward returned with the news that Loomis' berth had not been occupied and an immediate search of the ship was ordered-but without bringing to light the slightest trace of the representative of the American government.

Several passengers volunteered the information that they had seen Leomis on deck shortly after midnight and William E. Ellis, cabinmate and traveling companion of the missing passenger, declared that his friend's absence from the cabin had not alarmed him because of the fact that Loomis had come in at a fairly late hour on several previous evenings. British officials at Plymouth and the French officers at Cherbourg repeated the search of the steamer, but in vain. Nothing was missing from the cabin save the suit which Loomis was wearing at the time and even the flat dispatch box which contained the text of the treaty was found concealed beneath a pile of clothing in one corner of Loomis' trunk. Investigation developed the fact, however, that the State department massenger had been in the habit of carrying this box in his pocket and had laid it aside on the previous evening only because it made an unseemly bulge in the dress clothes which he had donned in honor of the captain's dinner.

During the next few weeks rumors of all kinds filled the press on both sides of the Atlantic. Loomis had gone auddenly mad and had been placed in a sanatorium. He had slipped off the steamer at Plymouth disguised as a second-class passenger. He was the victim of a clique of international spies who, balked in their attempt to secure possession of the text of the treaty, were holding him for ransom. He was still confined in the hold of the Kaiser Wilhelm-and so on to the limit of the imiginations of those who like to use fact as a basis for fiction.

But all these reports were set at rest when, on the morning of July 16 -just thirty-two days after Loomis had sailed from New York-a body was washed up at Warren Point, about fifteen miles from Plymouth. Believing that the body was that of a common sailor, the local police were about to inter it without further ceremony, when, from the watch-pocket of the trousers there dropped a watersoaked bit of pasteboard, upon which was barely discernible the name, "Kent J. Loomis."

Careful examination of the body developed the fact that, under the right ear, there was a circular wound which appeared to have been inflicted before death and a post-mortem ex-amination of the lungs of the dead man showed conclusively that death had been due to the blow which had resulted in this wound, rather than to drowning. The physicians were divided in their opinion as to whether the blow had been delivered by an instrument similar to a blackjack or whether Loomis might have fallen and struck his head against a projecting portion of the ironwork on the steamer. Examination of the Kaiser Wilhelm's log showed, however, that the sea had been extremely calm on the night that Loomis came to his death and that there had not been enough rell to cause anyone to lose his footing. Besides, there was the evidence of the manner in which the body was clothed. The cont was missing, the collar had been torn partly away and there were other signs of rough treatment before Loomis had struck the water.

It was therefore practically certain that the messenger had been mur dered. But who had killed him-and why? Had he been struck down on account of the money he was carrying or because of the treaty? Was his death a forecast of the World war which was to follow twelve years later?

These and all the other questions which surrounded the mystery remain as one of the unsolved riddles of diplomatic intrigue.

A Bit Skeptical.

"Who is the important looking stranger?" "He styles himself advance guard of

prosperity. He is here to address the business men of our town." "The hotel proprietor doesn't seen

to believe he's the advance guard of prosperity. He has just refused to eash the stranger's check."-Birmingham Age-Herald.

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Big Load of Box Wood and Planer Empire 1475 403 N. Jersey St. new ribbon.

NOT 'FINGER-PRINT' INVENTOR

Dr. Jacques Bertillon Has Been Given Gredit Which Properly Should Belong to Englishman.

Coupled with the announcement of the death of Dr. Jacques Bertillon in Paris was the erroneous statement that he was the inventor of the "Bertillon system for finger-printing." in collaboration with his elder brother. The facts are that the system was invented by his younger brother, and that it had nothing whatever to do with finger-printing, which was introduced as a rival system of identification by the late Sir Francis Galton, the cousin of Charles Darwin, who also invented composite photography and the now familiar term "eugenics.

Alphonse Bertillon, born in 1855 and died in 1914, for many years the head of the criminal investigation bureau of the city of Paris police department, was the inventor of the socalled "Bertillon system" of anthropometry for the identification of criminals. It had nothing to do with finger-prints, but consisted of an elaborate series of measurements of parts of the body with instruments of precision.

The making of these measurements required delicate and costly instruments and the work of skilled men. and it was, moreover, found that changes in even adult bodies made the system far from infallible. For these reasons the system, though still employed in France, has in America. Great Britain and elsewhere largely been supplanted by Galton's system of finger-printing or thumb-printing.

WAS BORN "IN THE PURPLE"

Known Now That John Wesley Was of the Same Descent as the Duke of Wellington.

A movement to restore the tomb of John Wesley, which is in an advanced stage of decay, and the renovation of his chapel on the thoroughfare known as City road, London, is already under way in England, and an effort is being made to interest American Methodists.

The tomb, the chapel and Wesley's house occupy a site given to him in 1775 by the city of London, not far from the old cannon foundry on Finsbury square, the first home of Methodism in London. Wesley's death occurred in 1791 in the house granted

him by the city. Notwithstanding the popular belief that Wesley was of humble origin it has been established that he was related to one Guy of Welswe, who was created an earl by King Athelstane in the Tenth century, Wesley is descended, according to these findings, from the same aucestor as the duke of Wellington.

In 1735 John Wesley came to America and settled in Georgia, and started the "Second Rise of Methodism," the movement having been founded at Oxford from which Wesley was a graduate, ten years before.

Waltress' Name on Card. The old "Is that our waitress?" problem has been solved by the management of a tea, sandwich and ice cream room in one of the midtown hotels popular with theatrical folk. The patron is never at a loss to know how to address his servitor, or servi-

table is slipped a neatly lettered card giving the name of the waitress assigned to it. Thus: "Your waitress' name is Mary," or

tress, for under the glass of each

"Your waitress' name is Lillian." "Yes, it is a great improvement," mused one patron the other evening as he lingered over a beverage blasphemously listed as mint julep. "But remember in the old days in this same place they didn't have to have a card on the mirror saying: "The bartender's name is Dave."-New York Sun.

Bande on His Cigars.

Mr. Blake hesitated at the entrance of the cigar store for a few minutes, looked up and down the street carefully and then cautiously went inside and shook hands with the proprietor. "Well, Jim, old man, what'll it be today? Same old brand?"

"That's just it," whispered Blake. "That's why I came to see you today. You see, this is my birthday and the wife is on the way here to buy me a box of cigars. Would it be too much trouble for you to put some of those pretty cigar bands on my favorite brand?"—New York Mail.

A Contradiction. President Ethel Enders Ellison of

the Housewives' league, said in an address in Denver: "Oh, these egg profiteers! Drat

"They tell me the Chicago Egg exchange sells more eggs every hour than all the hens of America could lay in a year. And every time an egg is sold its price, of course, goes up a little, while its real value goes down. "Eggs, in short, keep dear, but how liable you are at breakfast, to meet with one that turns out to be a little

cheeper!"

Saving Our Gas. It is reckoned by the bureau of mines that 50,000,000 gallons of gasoline were recovered at refineries in 1921 from uncondensed still vapors. Such an economy has a strong appeal for motorists, inasmuch as it has a bearing upon the price of the indispensable liquid fuel. But it is further estimated that if a like system were adopted by all refineries more than twice as much in addition might be saved, say 120,000,000 gallons altogether, which would thus be added yearly to the country's total output.

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Typewriter ribbons for sale at this office-Oliver, Underwood, Smith and Remington. Each 75 cents. You can do better and more presentable work with a also Flemish Giant rabbits. 516

HISTORY'S MYSTERIES

THE PUZZLE OF THE PEASANT EMPRESS

ALL the mystery and intrigue for which the East is famous could easily be epitomized in the strange, almost uncanny story of Tsu-lisi, dowager empress of China, and for years the power behind the throne of the Celestial Empire. Where she came from, how she exerted her almost supernatural power, the way in which she managed to substitute the first cousin of her dead son in the place of the baby emperor, the manner of her death, and the very disposition of her body, are all velled in a cloud of uncertainty, from which there emerges only the fact that Tsu-Hsl deserves to be ranked with Catherine of Russia as one of the few women who ever completely dominated a vast, half-savage kingdom.

The first that was known of Tsu-Hst was when she arrived in Peking, unbersided, to take her place in the ranks of the wives of the emperor, Halen-Feng. Her beauty and her charm attracted the favorable attention both of the downger empress and the first wife of the emperor, and she was soon accorded the comparative position of honor as fourth wife to the emperor, taking the place of the second wife when the latter died some months later.

Two years after Tsu-Hal entered the palace she gave birth to a sona boy who succeeded to the throne upon the death of his father five years later, the first wife of the emperor being childless. Long before this time, however, official Peking was boiling over with gossip as to the origin of the "peasant empress," as she was known on account of the fact that her feet had never been bound. According to one story, she was a slave-girl whose beauty had attracted the attention of the emperor. Another rumor maintained that she had been given to the governor of a southern province in return for a favor conferred upon her mother and that the governor, wishing to secure favor In the eyes of the emperor, had sent her to Peking, where she soon ruled the court by virtue of her overpowering personality. A third reportand one which was most generally accepted-was that she was the protege of Li Hung Chang, who was supposed to have placed her in the imperial palace to further his own ends, knowing that she was the daughter of a Tartar general, a heritage which would have accounted both for her brains and her ability to dominate

those around her. But, no matter what her origin was, high or low, the fact that Tsu-Hsi ruled the imperial palace with a rod of iron is a matter of record, as is the dramatic manner in which she foiled the plot to wreck her power through the murder of her son shortly after he had ascended the The conspiracy was success ful, so far as the death of the boy was concerned, but no sooner had he succumbed to a very brief illness than the empress left the bed where his body lay and proceeded at once to another part of the palace, snatching up the three-year-old cousin of the dead emperor, Kwang-Hsu, and presenting him to the assembled mandarins as the new ruler of China-a coup which the empress is said to have engineered by means of threats of personal violence against the mandarins and an oath that she would encompass the death of any who dared oppose her wishes. From this time until the death of Kwang-Hsu, in 1908, Tsu-Hsi was the real head of the kingdom-not only as dowager empress, but as the power which dom tnated the emperor by means of the lash whenever he showed a disin-

clination to fall in with her wishes. As befitted one of the most remarkable women in history, the death of Tsu-Hsi was as dramatic and mysterious as her origin and early history. On November 3, 1908, the court as stated in the celebration of her seventy-fourth birthday-an occasion in which she appeared to be in the best of health. Less than a fortnight later. however, it was announced that the empress had suddenly died and, at the same time, a bulletin was issued stating that the emperor had passed away on the preceding evening. Those familiar with the intrigue surrounding the Chinese court shook their heads wisely and smiled with more than a trace of grimness at the thought of the fate which had overtaken Tsu-Hsl

and her protege. "The death which she had meted out to others has overtaken her at last." was the popular verdict, but beyond this nothing was discovered. Thus passed, as mysteriously as she had lived, one of the most remarkable characters in history-an autocrat whose birth, life and death were all shrouded in impenetrable mystery.

Still on Outsider. Long-I dined at my fiancee's home

yesterday. Short-I suppose they regard you as one of the family by now, don't they?

"Not exactly. They haven't reached the point where they shrick at me if I make a spot on the tablecloth."-London Answers.

Some People Are Born Lucky. North-Did you enjoy the banquet? West-Very much. I wasn't hungry anyway and a telegram called me away just as the speeches started .-

Nettie Leona Foy PIANO

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BASIN THAT FIRES BULLETS

New and Frightful Weapon of War Is Operated Without the Aid of Any Explosive.

Can you imagine a gun which makes neither noise nor smoke, uses no explosive, is worked entirely by a petrol engine, and can shoot 1,200 rounds a minute at ranges up to 2,000 yards?

Such a weapon is being tested by the British military authorities. It works on the principle of centrifugal forcethe same force that flings mud onto your back when you are cycling on a wet day, or causes glant fly wheels in factories to burst suddenly into hundreds of fragments. Anything that is placed upon a revolving wheel is carried to its edge and then huried

The new gun consists of a metal basin in which are placed a quantity of round steel bullets. As the basin is whirled at enormous speed by a petrol motor the bullets are allowed to es cape from an opening in the disk Shutters are provided which prevent the bullets from being thrown out ex-

cept at one point. One feature of the gun is that it can be regulated to meet the requirements of the occasion. Spin the magazine rapidly and its missiles will crash through an oaken plank a mile away But let it revolve at a low speed and it will pour out a stream of bullets which stun, but do not kill, at even such a short range as 20 yards.

NEED NOT HAVE ADVERTISED

Either Actor Was Exceedingly Popu lar or the Man in the Box Office Was a "Kidder."

A member of an actors' club tells of one-night stand in North Dakota played by a company with which this ctor was once connected. He always remembers the place on account of several queer localisms used by the antives in conversation.

As he often does on such occusions this neter strolled up to the box office on the afternoon of their arrival and nquired as to the prospects indicated

by the advance sale. "Outlook ain't very good for to alght," said the ticket seller, and the actor thought he noticed just the shadow of a twinkle in his keen eye. Here's half a dozen seats right here aln't even been sold yet and now I'm blamed sorry I spent so much money on advertising."

"Why, what on earth do you mean?" asked the actor. "Well, I just nosed it around that

you were coming to see us, and ding me if the house didn't jest about sell out three days ago,"-Philadelphia Ledger.

A Resignation.

The clumsy girl, who had been heting as waitress for the Jenkins fam-Hy, bad broken dish after dish, and at last the mistress of the house spoke to her decidedly. "If you break any more china or

glass, Mary, I shall be obliged to dismiss you," she said, "for I cannot afford to keep you." That very night at dinner

came the sound of a fearful crash from the butler's pantry. There was a moment of deathly stillness, and then Mary appeared, removing her apron as she emerged from the

"The plates and all is in flinders, mum," she said, calmly, "and I'm off!" -Milwaukee Sentinel.

Few Millionaires in Italy. Only 21 Italian citizens according to tax returns, could quality in the United States today as millionaires. On the basis of lire there are 5,118 Italians who are worth more than a million, but a million lire at the present exchange amounts to only \$50,000. Three-fifths of the Italian millionaires have no more than this amount, and only 90 have more than ten million fire (\$500,000). Only two men possess more than fifty million lire. Rockefeller, by these figures, is thus worth at least twice as much as all the Italian millionaires put together. Two-tifths of the Italian phytocrats live in northern Italy in the two provinces of Lombardy and Piedmont.

Doesn't Happen Every Day. After paying my check at the desk where I had dined I stopped to weigh myself on the scales near the door, in plain sight and hearing of the roomful of diners.

As I stepped upon the platform and dropped my penny in the slot a number of youngsters jumped off a nearby bench and gathered around me. When the pointer swung around to 190 they clapped their hands and squealed with excitement.

One of them called to a friend who had not joined the little party around the scales: "O, come and look! She makes it go clear around!"-Chicago Tribune.

Cocaine Culture.

Cocaine first obtained recognition as a valuable medicinal drug about thirty-five years ago, and the commercial supply was derived from leaves of the wild coca plant native to Peru. Now, however, the shrub is cultivated on an extensive scale in Java, which will export this year about 4,500,000 pounds of the leaves.

Exaggerated Fancy. "Why are you so resentful of air-

ships?" "They make us nervous," replied Corntossel. "Some of the summer hourders are always mistaking them for mosquitoes in the dis-

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HISTORY'S MYSTERIES

WHO WAS KASPAR HAUSER?

WHEN the police of Nuremburg first discovered this youth, apparently about eighteen years of age, caning up against a wall in one of the public squares with his hands over his eyes to protect them from the glare of the sun, they at first thought that he was some idiot who had escaped from a sanitarium. But investigation soon developed that here was a case as unique as that of the man in the Iron mask, and resembling it in a number of ways.

Not only were the boy's eyes weak, but his muscles were as flabby as those of an infant and the soles of his feet were convex, like those of a baby that has never learned to walk. He had to be carried bodily to police beadquarters and even there, the sight of the commonest objects appeared to terrify him, while the slightest of sounds caused him to cover his ears and wince as if his ear-drums were accustomed only to total stience. On the other hand, his face indicated that he was of good parentage, and the clothing which he were was fashloned of the softest, finest materials. In an effort to discover something

about his identity, one of the police officials offered him a pencil which, much to the surprise of those present, he seized and wrote the two words "Kaspar Hauser," which, as it afterwards developed, was the only clue he could give to his past.

Prof. G. F. Daumer of the University of Nuremberg, hearing about the strange case, took the young man to his home-amazed not only by the fact that he could neither talk nor walk, but that he would eat nothing but bread and water. The professor, however, started to educate him at once and in a surprisingly short time the youth had progressed sufficiently to give a graphic story of his experi-

For as long as he could remembe ne had been confined to a dark cell, into which the sun had never penetrate !. He had been visited once a day by a man who washed and dressed him and fed him a ration of brend and water. It was this man who had taught him to write the lite act. By nature they are honest, words "Kaspar Hauser," which Professor Daumer believed to be a false name given to him in order to mislead the authorities and to conceal his real identity. Finally, he declared, he had been blindfolded and led into the in the Orient or in this country.

street where the police had found him. The young man's story naturally created a vast amount of comment in all sections of Europe and the Daumer house became the center of attraction for the curious, many of whom maintained that they might be able to iden tify Hauser, but none of whom were able to produce the proof of their con tention.

The next development in the myster ious chain of circumstances surrounding the youth, came about five months after Hauser's discovery by the police, when he staggered into Professor Daumer's library, half-blind ed by the blood which dripped tron an open gash in his forehead. It was some time before he recovered con sciousness sufficiently to state that musiced man had struck at him with a saher, that he had dedged the blow and that his assailant had fled before he could give the alarm. The infer ence which the police drew from the attack was that the same person who had imprisoned the boy was now striv ing to kill him, lest he divulge the

secret of his birth. Shortly afterward, the case came to the attention of the wealthy Lore Stanhope, who, convinced that Hausei was of aristocratic and perhaps of royal parentage, adopted him and sent him under guard to Auspach, where he was educated. Some three years later, Lord Stanbope arrived in Anspach with the intention of taking his protege back to England with him. On the morning of the day that they were to leave Hauser received a note, tell ing him to come to a certain place where he would learn the secret of his birth. Less than a hour later the Eng lish nobleman heard moans from outside his apartment and, opening the door, was just in time to catch Hauser as he fell, blood welling from a knife wound in his side. He had barely gasped the words, "Uzen monumentpalace grounds" when he fell dead.

Lord Stanhope hurried to the Uzer monument and found there a slip of paper bearing, in the young man's handwriting, the cryptic message: "Knspar Hauser-murdered at the age of twenty-one. Know by this that I come from the Bavarian frontier on the river. The initials of my name are

M. L. B." And not even the offer of a reward of 5,000 florins by Lord Stanhope no. the investigations of countless ama teur and professional detectives could ever throw the slightest light upon the birth or death of this human enigma.

His Complaint. "As the song has it, we are only poor weak mortals, after all." "Admitted," said Mr. Grumpson "What I object to is the large num ber of persons with no other viaible means of support who draw fat sal-

Ever Thus. An Egyptian mummy with bobbet hair has been found. They are now digging for her horn-rimmed spec

aries for telling us how weak we are."

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LET THE GOLDFISH DO IT

New York Health Commissioner Gives

Advice to Those Who May Be

Have you a little goldfish-fish, not digger-in your home? Which same is not the title of a Broadway unmusical comedy or of the latest spasm from Tin Pan alley. It is a serious inquiry addressed to a suffering population by the state health commissioner, Dr. Herman M. Biggs, observes the New York Herald, If little culex pipiens, homebred New York mosquito, is what's biting you, go get a goldfish or an oil can. They

> company or the pet store. The doctor is not dogmatic in advis-ing purchase of a goldfish to catch and eat mosquito eggs and infant mosquitoes before they grow up and develop augers. Most any fish will dominnow, tarpon, tuna, landlocked salmon, squaretall trout. Goldfish are suggested not only because they add to the beauty of scenes, but because they are so affectionate, resembling

are the only known cures for the mos-

quito plague, Dr. Biggs says. It's a

case of patronizing the Standard Off

nothing so much as an Airedale. All fish are fond of mosquitoes as hors d'oevres. Choice is optional, That is the substance of the advice to tortured citizens on the verge of losing their religion by Commissioner Biggs in a series of bulletins and health

SEEK LIVES OF USEFULNESS

American Born Chinese Girls Work Hard to Fit Themselves to Help Less Fortunate.

Few people are acquainted with that unique type of girl, the Americanborn Chinese. She is far different from her sisters in the Orient: As a rule she has made the most of her opportunities"in America.

The Chinese have the genius to make work a pleasure and an art. Their student life is full of delight. Study for them seems to be an inatinci Miss Edna Cameron, who has taught

a great number of Chinese girls in Portland (Ore.) schools, recently said that she found them honest, diligent, fair-minded and always polite and kind. "It would seem quite impossible for them to be unkind or to do an impo-

press gratitude for their education,' she said. Many Chinese girls in America are fitting themselves for business, either

There are scores of young Chinese girls in America who have attained a vast amount of the good offered in this land and who now are dreaming of going to the land of their ancestors to teach and help the girls there.

Bible Verse Called "Code," Owing to the ruling of the signal corps, United States army, that code messages will not be accepted for transmission over the cable to Alaska, a telegraph clerk recently refused take a message for Nome which read: "Third Epistie of John, verses 13 and 14." The sender said he figured he could get his message in the limit of the ten-word special rate, the dispatch being designed to notify his son that

he would soon arrive in Alaska. The Bible text indicated has these words: "I have many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee, but I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face."-New York Sun.

Nothing Doing.

Old Mose carefully knocked the ashes from his corncob and put it on

the mantelpiece, "Mandy," he remarked, "I think Ise gwine put on mah bes' clothes an' go down to de theayter ternight to see

de chorus ladies dance." His wife turned a stony eye on him. "Mose," she said slowly, "lissen heah! If dat am what yuh thinks, then yuh'd bettah think again. Niggah, sub ain't gwine put on nothin' to go no place no time to see nobody do noth-In', never, no how an' not at all. Doca yuh understan'?"-Saturday Evening Post.

Merely Curious to Know. An elderly woman who was sitting by me on the train one day got up hurriedly and left. As she was walk ing down the aisle I noticed that she

had forgotten her spectacle case. It was wedged securely between the weats and I kept pulling energetically at it to get it out before she should reach the door.

Just as she disappeared around the the seat behind and remarked in a patient tone, "Just what was it you wanted with my shoe?"-Exchange.

Laying Down a Barrage. "Do you hear from your son at college?"

"Early and often," said Mr. Grabcoin. "I get so many requests for money by mail, telegraph and longdistance telephone that I hesitate to 'listen in' with my radio outfit for fear I'll hear son's voice making another appeal."-Birmingham Age-Her-

Indoor Exercise. "I hear you've joined the Outing ciub." "Yes."

"Going to take some long hikes?" "Certainly, but only in the clubhouse. I may walk around a billiard table 40 or 50 times in the course of A. W. DAVIS

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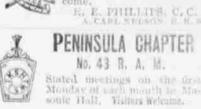
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