

A SINGULAR COMBINATION.

RIDER HAGGARD, WEIRD FICTION WRITER; MODEL FARMER AND POLITICAL ECONOMIST.

Makes Official Report on Salvation Army Colonization Work.—Would Direct the "Waste Forces of Benevolence."

H. Rider Haggard is a man of genius. At one time, he is writing such impossible creations as "She" and "King Solomon's Mines," calling into play a most vivid imagination and settings, in weird and unreal colorings; at another time, he is actively superintending the work on his magnificent 200-acre English farm; next he is studying over some new imaginative creation, wandering about his home, and not speaking to the members of his family for a week at a time; and again he is making an economic study, under a government commission, of the social conditions of the poor in America. In a short interview with him, as he passed through Washington this year, on his way west, I found that he possessed eminently practical good sense, while the imaginative streak of his character did not manifest itself in the least, and I see now, that he has just made his report to the British Secretary of State for the Colonies, on his inspection of the three land settlements, which have been established in California, Colorado and Ohio respectively, by the American branch of the Salvation Army.

Colonization Work of Salvation Army.
At these three points the Salvation Army has established rural settlements, taking worthy poor from the overcrowded cities, furnishing them with small tracts of land, sufficient money to get a start and make homes



H. RIDER HAGGARD.

for themselves, repayment for the cost of which is provided at low rates of interest.

Mr. Haggard expresses himself as extremely well satisfied with the results seen at the Fort Romie settlement in California, and the Fort Amity settlement in Colorado. The Ohio settlement he leaves out of consideration, as it is principally devoted to the redemption of inebriates, and the carrying out of agricultural experiments. At both Forts Romie and Amity, he found the settlers healthy, happy, hopeful and almost without exception doing well. Beginning in nearly every case with nothing, in the course of about four years at Fort Romie, he found these settlers worth about \$2,000 per head, above all their debts and liabilities to the Salvation Army and others, and at Fort Amity, an average of over \$1,000 a head, which he thinks is more than they could have possibly accumulated during the same period as day laborers on the land or in the cities.

Reason For Wide Encouragement.

It is true that, although the settlers themselves are doing well the Salvation Army, for the reason that unexpected difficulties in the opening up of the land were encountered, was called upon to pay some \$50,000 for its experience. Mr. Haggard declares, however, that under all the circumstances, and in the face of the principles demonstrated, and the success won in every other direction, this experience has been very cheaply bought.

"Further," he says, "I cannot see any cause to fear a repetition of that loss in the future application of these principles. It is therefore totally inaccurate to say, as has been done widely in press summaries of my report, that these settlements are financially a failure."

Would Systematize Philanthropy.

Mr. Haggard proposes a scheme, L. e., to combine a judicious use of the public credit, with that of what I have called, "the waste forces of benevolence," and by means of these two levers, to lift some of the mass of human misery, which demonstrates itself in the great cities of civilization, to a new level of plenty and contentment.

He believes that if settlements are carried out on these lines, and especially if they are located upon good land, which has cost the controlling authorities little or nothing, there should be, as is indicated by the tables furnished in this report, no loss, but even a considerable gain.

G. M.

Ancient Adulterations.

Adulteration laws appear to have been quite as necessary in the good old days as in the sophisticated Twentieth Century. Even the adulteration of feather beds and bolsters had to be provided against. October 14, 1495, is the date of a statute prohibiting the sale in English fairs or markets of these articles, or of pillows, "except they be stuffed with one manner of feathers." It expressly denounced the use of such "unlawful and corrupt stuffs" as "matted feathers, or fen-down." The last substance is the same as cotton grass, and was evidently in great demand as a fraudulent substitute in bed-stuffing. In the eighteenth century, again, we find complaints of people who bought fen-down at a halfpenny a pound, and sold it among feathers at sixpence.

SOUND ADVICE FOR MEN.

The Woman's Side of It—Converse of the Proposition That the Wife Should Not Burden Husband With Household Duties.

Beginning away back with St. Paul, who admonished the women to keep silent in the churches, the so-called weaker sex have been exhorted, advised and ridiculed; and a long list of conduct of the negative sort mapped out beginning with DON'T, and an equally lengthy array of the positive sort, starting with DO.

And all this sage advice applies in turn to maid and wife, debutante and dowager.

Now what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. Why not some advice to men?

Are you one of those men who continually leave their personal belongings, their hats, canes, coats or slippers, wherever they've happened last to use them?

Do you smoke your cigar in the parlor and let the ashes fall wheresoever they will, and that, too, after the regular Friday cleaning? And you endeavor to placate your wife with that superior sophistry about cigar ashes keeping out moths.

Do you bury yourself in the morning paper, even reading while eating, while your wife sits silent at the head of the table? Do you exclaim, or chuckle, or swear softly at the latest news, without sharing your information with her?

Do you compliment the little woman when you are enjoying one of your good dinners, or do you find fault if the morning coffee is just the least bit below standard, though the previous twenty-five mornings you have drunk the amber liquid of surpassing excellence?

Do you notice the new gown that has cost her days of thought and effort? Or do you say "you women spend a whole lot of unnecessary thought and time upon clothes," and then take your new top-coat back to the tailor the sixth time because "it doesn't set just right?"

Do you surprise your wife occasionally by getting seats at the theatre and giving her a surprise party of two? Or do you say "Aw, go to the matinee if you want to see the show. I'll go to the ball game?"

Do you tell her of your plans, your work, your perplexities? Do you share with her your hopes and fears? Do you let her know of the real life you lead so many hours each day? Or do you turn her questions with a brief "Women know nothing about business. It will only worry you?"

Do you sometimes take her in your arms and say "Little woman, you are a good wife—a real help-meet?" Do you ever tell her the things you did in the sweetheart days? Or do you let it go, thinking "She knows that anyway."

The woman's field of labor, big man, is narrow and circumscribed. It is bounded, ordinarily, by the walls of the house and the needs of the children. This is her province and she glories in it. But know that she also longs for contact with the big world, for the mental stimulus that comes from daily association with men and affairs, for the joy of recognized compensation for services rendered.

Because she is your wife, because she has entered into the domestic life, these things are denied her.

Can't you be generous to the little woman? Can't you welcome her into your larger life? Can't you make her your real comrade—your true help-meet?

Longest Bridge in the World.

The longest bridge in the world is the Lion bridge, near Sangon, China, supported by over 300 huge stone arches and extending five and one-quarter miles over the arm of the Yellow Sea.



THE MERGANSER WILD DUCK.

One of the most beautiful of wild ducks, with its dark, glossy green head, rich, salmon colored breast and strongly marked wings, its voracious fishing habits make the Merganser useless for food and thus an object but little troubled by sportsmen. A large number of local names such as the goosander, the shell-drake, saw-bill, diving goose, the weaser, have attached themselves to this large, handsome swimmer that studiously avoids man, even though no sportsman would trouble him, and that eludes pursuit by the most remarkable feats of diving and swimming. Eating is the chief object in life for the Merganser, who frequently swallows a fish so large that it can not descend into the stomach, but must remain partially in the distended throat until digested, piece-meal. But this process is so rapid as to always leave the bird with a voracious appetite and drive it to desperate rashness to secure its prey.

Swift currents with deep pools where the fish hide and foaming cataracts where they leap are the delight of the Merganser, whose marvelous diving and swimming enable them to take heavy

DESTROYING THE QUEER

LARGE SUMS OF CAPTURED COUNTERFEITS BURNED UP AND MELTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Coins, Stamps, and Other Imitations Accumulate in Uncle Sam's Strong Box in Large Quantities.—Valuable Counterfeiting Machinery.

The periodical destruction of counterfeit currency, spurious coin, postage stamps, revenue stamps and other contraband material captured from counterfeiters by the secret service, has been ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury. The accumulation of this stuff in the treasury is larger than usual. Three clerks in the cash room of the treasury have been delegated a committee to see that this "queer" money is done away with.

Every two or three years so much counterfeit money and counterfeiting tools and implements accumulate in the office of Chief Willkie, of the secret service, that it is necessary to destroy it. The chief notifies the Secretary of the Treasury, who issues an order which sends the coin to the assay office, where all the silver and gold is melted or reduced from the mass, run into ingots,



CHIEF WILKIE

Of The Secret Service.

and sold, while the rest of the stuff, including the base metal, such as dimes, stamps, etc., is taken either to the navy yard or to a foundry and there destroyed in the presence of secret service officers, who make affidavits of the destruction to the Secretary.

There has not been a house-cleaning of this kind since November, 1902. Valuable Counterfeiting Machinery. At present the contraband includes in addition to counterfeit notes, coins, postage and revenue stamps, valuable and costly type, by means of which counterfeiters print the Latin numerals on "queer" notes; inks, paints, acids, photographic apparatus, dies, molds, stamps and other accessories of the art of making fictitious money.

This year a large batch of the Johnson-Hancock notes will be burned. They are known as the "Hancock 2s." They were made by the celebrated counterfeiter Johnson of Detroit and were so nearly perfect that the government suspended the issue of this note. No doubt many of these counterfeits are still in circulation and performing the functions of real money.

A number of notes made by the notorious but now "reformed" counterfeiter Brookway will be destroyed.

Even Pennies Counterfeited

In the store room of the Secret Service Bureau are many boxes of bad coins. Every coin of the United States from cents to \$20 gold pieces has been imitated, counterfeit nickels being found more frequently than silver or copper coins.

In the collection is some gold coin that has been sweated. Sweating is an ancient and simple trick, long practiced

by the Chinese and presumably introduced into this country by them. It consists in taking a bag of gold dollars and shaking them violently about for hours at a time, the result being that they are taken out badly worn and with a small deposit of gold at the bottom of the sack.

The government also has in its possession numerous counterfeiters of foreign currency, principally Italian, German and Austrian, though there is some English and French. The government holds that it is as great a crime to falsify or counterfeit foreign obligations as it is to counterfeit our own.

One of the features of this curious collection is the number of advertisements so closely resembling money or stamps that the government officers determined to take charge of them.

CHARGES ADMISSION FOR CHARITY.

European and Diplomatic Gossip.

James J. Van Alan, the expatriated American millionaire, has taken a hint from the Duke of Westminster, who has for some time past charged all tourists or excursionists who desire to explore Eaton Hall and spend a day among the beautiful scenery on his Cheshire estate, 12 cents a head. So great has been the influx of tourists to Rushton Hall, Mr. Van Alan's historic place in Northamptonshire, during this season, that, commencing with January 1, he proposes to follow the Duke's example with a condition slightly changed. The income derived from the Duke's visitors is divided among local charities. Mr. Van Alan will charge a maximum of 25 cents to all visitors from abroad and 12 cents to excursionist parties other than those who may come from the county of Northampton, to whom the grounds will be free on Mondays and Saturdays. The income derived from all sources will be divided between the local infirmary and an institution for social intercourse and educational improvement which he means to establish in the neighborhood for the benefit of workmen. It is estimated that next year, when the house and grounds may be seen at the best, the income derived from this project will not fall far short of \$5,000.

King Leopold of Belgium, who is often mentioned as business partner of Thomas S. Walsh of Washington and Colorado, possesses considerable real estate in the French Riviera. His de-



KING LEOPOLD OF BELGIUM.

mesnes are at Villefranche sur Mer, near Nice. They are called the Col du Caire, and the Passable. Both have been enlarged some few years ago, notably the Passable, to which has been added the whole of the western side of Cape Ferrat. In this portion of the newly acquired property a small part has been constructed for the King's yacht.

Lady Henry Somerset, who is well known in this country from her great work in the interest of the temperance movement, has a woman footman, a female butler, and women in charge of her stables.

Members of reigning families, princes as well as princesses of the blood, have to obtain permission from the sovereign before they can leave the country. They are always expected to notify the monarch when they intend to absent themselves from the town or city where the court happens to be in residence at the time.

The late King Humbert of Italy on one occasion called his niece, Duchess Helen of Aosta, to severe account for having left Italy to visit her mother in France without previously obtaining his sanction.

This rule, which Viceroy Lord Curzon also introduced in India, caused almost open rebellion among a number of the more powerful maharajahs and gajwars of the empire, who on a number of occasions disregarded the Viceroy's rule and left the empire not only without his sanction but against his strictest instructions.

The wealth of some of the Russian churches in costly gems, jewelry and precious stones is proverbial. Some churches in the United States, notwithstanding they are not supported by the government, as they are in Russia and other countries, are gradually acquiring rare paintings, statuary, stained glass windows and costly vestments. For instance, the most costly mitre in the United States, a mitre which represents \$10,000 worth of jewels and precious stones, is worn by Bishop Horstmann of the Cleveland diocese of the Roman Catholic Church. Most of these jewels were presented to the church by Mr. Gordon, who also donated to the city of Cleveland his magnificent Gordon Park. Mr. Gordon was a father of Mrs. Daisy Hanna, wife of Dan. Hanna, son of the late Senator Hanna.

"Old Probabilities" In Japan.

While Japan has had meteorological stations on some of her very high mountains since 1899, these were only in use during the summer. An all year station will now be opened on the summit of Mount Tsukuba, near Tokio.

Rocketeer Scores In Japan.

The British steamer Monarch sailed from Philadelphia recently for Japan with a cargo of 2,470,700 gallons of refined petroleum, one hundred barrels of lubricating oil and 1,200 cases of wax. This is the greatest oil cargo ever shipped out of the United States.

A SEQUOIA GIGANTEA.

Restoration in Government Grounds of Tree Twenty Feet Thick.

This picture represents the biggest tree in Washington and one of the "sights" of the National Capital. It has a strong attraction for strangers from afar and especially from the east and the south. This piece of a tree stands in the grounds of the Department of Agriculture, east of the Administration building. The giant came from the Sequoia National Park in California and was exhibited at the World's Fair at Chicago. At the close of the fair it was brought to Washington. It is twenty



feet in diameter and is called The General Noble in honor of the Secretary of the Interior under whose administration so much good was done for the big tree reservations of the Pacific coast. The cost of its transportation to Chicago was \$10,000. The interior is hollow and a spiral stairway leads to the platform at the top.

A Dress Made of Postage Stamps.

An American lady wore a ball dress at a ball in Bermuda recently in which 30,000 stamps were used. Years were spent in the collection, and the dress was covered with stamps of all nations. An eagle made entirely with brown Columbian stamps was the centre of the breast. Suspended from the talons was a globe made of very old blue revenue stamps. On either side of the globe was an American flag, the stripes of blue and red stamps. A collection of foreign stamps was pasted on the back of the bodice in the form of a shield. A large picture hat, covered with red and blue stamps, a mask and a very pretty fan covered entirely with pink, completed the costume.

Improvising.

"I admire that last piece you played, professor, immensely," said Mrs. Gaswell. "It had a kind of wild freedom about it, you know, a sort of wildness that touched me. Was it your own composition?" "Madam," coldly responded the eminent musician, who had been hired for the occasion, "I was putting a new string on my violin."

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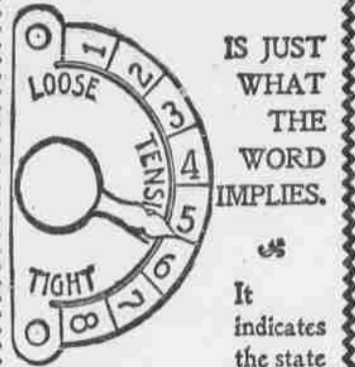
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