

# THEY TRICKED HIM

## A. G. Vanderbilt Runs Up Against Bloody Blooming Britishers

### HORSES BRING CUT PRICES

Cheap Horse Traders Circulated Report That Vanderbilt Would Sell Only His Poorest Horses and the Rich Bidders Remained Away.

NEW YORK, July 21.—The arrival of Alfred G. Vanderbilt's horses yesterday on the Atlantic Transport Company liner Minnehaha developed the fact that the famous ship was made a victim of English "gyps" during the sale of his coach horses at Tattersalls, London. His loss in the transaction was in the neighborhood of \$15,000. Mr. Vanderbilt bought sixty American trotting-bred coach horses and shipped them with his team of famous grays to England. Early in May he put his coach venture into commission and began his daily runs, leaving London one day and Brighton the next. After several weeks on the road, during which time he broke in the horses, he announced the sale of his horses by auction at Tattersalls, London.

On the day appointed a big crowd of curiously inclined was on hand at Tattersalls but in the meantime the English "gyps," or cheap horsemen, formed a clique and circulated the rumor that Mr. Vanderbilt had reserved the best of his horses to take back to America and would offer only those for which he had no use. The report found credence and as a result horse owners failed to appear. The "gyps" had the bidding practically to themselves. The sale was conducted in the inner ring at Tattersalls and the fifty-six horses sold at an average of about \$250 each.

On the day following the Vanderbilt sale which was practically private, the English horseman put up the horses they secured from Mr. Vanderbilt for sale in the outside or public ring at a deal of big prices on them. In one case where they had secured a horse for \$250 they re-sold it for \$520, while in another, where a splendid bay was knocked down to one of the clique for \$250 it was later purchased by a prominent English horse show exhibitor for over \$600. There were several cases of this kind, and the fifty horses secured by the English dealers at an average of \$200 a head, giving a clear profit of about \$15,000 for the Britishers.

### Had Never Seen a Burro.

The long eared burro, that hardy little animal that helped build the wonderful cog railway up Pike's peak, is considered a necessity in the far west, but is something of a curiosity "way down east" in the New England states. There is a story of the burro and a man from Maine. Here it is: A wealthy Yankee went west last winter from Maine, leaving his family at home. His hobby was to collect quaint pieces of pottery, unique articles of furniture, bureaus, tables, desks and "whatnots." When he was ready to leave for home he found he had bought up several dray loads of curios. He chartered a car and loaded in his treasures, but there still was one end of the car that might be filled with something unique. Some one suggested that he buy a burro for his little boy to ride, which he did, and the "mountain canary" occupied the vacant space. The Yankee station agent back in Maine, when he began to unload the car, checked off each article on the bill of lading till he came to the burro. He was much puzzled, for he could not find this thing on his list. Finally he made an entry in the "remarks" column of his tally sheet as follows: "One bureau short and one donkey over."—Kansas City Star.

### Fruitless Plants.

The knowledge that the common white potato seldom produces fruit is so widely diffused that the barrenness of the plant causes no comment. Indeed, since the tubers in a measure function as seeds we have partially transferred the name to them. It is usual to speak of potatoes intended for planting as "seed potatoes." Real potato seeds may be found, however, if one searches the potato fields long enough, and from such seeds new strains of potatoes may be raised.

The potato is not alone in its strange ways. Many other plants, of which the ground nut and lily of the valley are good examples, rarely produce seeds. It is noticeable that all such plants have other excellent and efficient means of propagation, and it may be assumed that finding one method requiring less effort than the other they have generally adopted it. When plants have more than one

means of multiplying, as, for instance, seeds above ground and tubers or runners below ground, they usually subserve two distinct uses, those below ground serving to multiply the plant in its own locality and those above giving it a chance of gaining a foothold in distant lands.—American Botanist.

### MRS. VIXENHEAD.

#### The Story of a Berlin Shrew and Her Likeness in Stone.

This quaint equivalent of the German term neidkopf is applied by travelers to an effigy carried in stone and fixed in a niche in the second story of a house in the Helligengelstrasse in Berlin not far from the emperor's palace. The neidkopf represents a hideous, harpy faced woman with snakelike curls and tongue protruding in mocking derision.

One day some 200 years ago, the legend runs, Frederick William of Prussia, more familiarly known as Old Fritz, was walking about the streets of the city in the unconventional way he affected when he chanced to look through a window and observed a hunchbacked goldsmith hard at work. The king entered the little shop for a chat.

The result of his interview was an order for a gold table service for the royal household, an order that made the fortune of the hunchback. Later his majesty made other visits to the shop to see how the work was advancing, and on one of these occasions he observed a woman in the window of the opposite house contorting her face in the most hideous grimaces and pointing with derisive finger at the crippled workman.

To the king's query as to what ailed the old woman the goldsmith replied: "It is envy, sire. She is the wife of a rival goldsmith, and ever since your majesty so graciously gave me this order she and her daughter have reviled me."

Frederick William, paternal in punishment as well as in reward, at once investigated as to the ownership of the house in which the shrew lived. He found that it belonged to her husband and therefore reasoned that there was little likelihood of the family moving, an idea that seemed greatly to please his majesty. His next move was to consult a sculptor, whom he commanded to make the bust of a woman with the most shrewish, Xantippe-like face he could imagine. The king then bought and renovated the house in which the hunchback had his workshop, presented it to him and caused the bust to be placed conspicuously above the workroom window. Thus whenever the envious woman across the street looked forth from her casement the first object of which her eyes fell was this intended portrait of her amiable self.

For more than a hundred years the neidkopf—spiteful vixen head, as one would say in English—stood in proud prominence, a reproach to the envious woman and her descendants. It afterward mysteriously disappeared, but in 1840 or thereabouts it was found in a forgotten collection of bric-a-brac. Frederick William IV. bought the bust for a large price and had it replaced in its original niche, where it stands today.—New York Tribune.

### The Senate Band.

The press gallery of the senate does not look unlike a band stand, with its elaborately decorated front, and it is never occupied by the scribes prior to the opening of the proceedings. A young lady seated in the gallery opposite the press gallery had been looking intently at the empty seats for quite awhile. Her curiosity got the better of her, and, going to the doorkeeper, she said, "Mister, will you please tell me when the band begins to play?" The doorkeeper was amazed. "No band will play, miss," said that gentleman. "There is no band. Why do you ask?" The young lady looked disappointed and embarrassed when she said, with hesitation, "Isn't that the band stand?" pointing to the press gallery.—Washington Herald.

### Bray's Mythical Vicar.

It is curious to reflect that there are scattered about the world many scores of places whose chief claim to distinction consists in their association with some famous ditty or other. Take, for example, the village of Bray, in Berkshire, always associated with the world famous "Vicar of Bray." The most curious part of the business is that, though Fuller, in his "Worthies of England," asserts that the cleric who is the hero of the song was one Simon Alleyne, careful search of the parish registers has failed to substantiate the story.—London Musical Home Journal.

### A Stronous Task.

"Your honor," said the witness, "can't you order a recess?" "A recess?" "Yes, sir. I've stood on this stand and told the whole truth two hours on a stretch, and I'm teetotally wore out! I never told the truth that long before—not in all my life!"—Atlanta Constitution.

### Shattered Hopes.

He (anxiously)—I understand your father speaks very highly of me? She—Yes, but he doesn't mean a word of it. He—Are you sure of that? She—Certainly. He does it just to torment mother.—Chicago News.

There is nothing else "just as good" as Kemp's Balsam, the best cough cure, and the other kinds cost just as much as this famous remedy.

# A TALE OF PORTO RICO

## Curious Story of the Haunted Sentry Box.

### LIGHT ON THE OLD LEGEND.

One of the Many Mysterious Disappearances From Fort San Cristobal Accounted For by the Revelation of the Lost One Himself.

Writing in the Journal of the Military Service Institution, Captain Arthur P. S. Hyde of the coast artillery tells this curious story of "the haunted sentry box" of Fort San Cristobal, the ancient Spanish built fortress which guards the entrance to San Juan, Porto Rico:

"A number of picturesque sentry boxes built of masonry and appearing like minarets are placed at points of vantage in and around the fort. One of these on the sea front, and reached only through a long and dark tunnel from the interior of the fort, is popularly known as La Garita del Diablo, or the devil's sentry box, usually, although incorrectly, translated the haunted sentry box. This name was given to it by the Spanish soldiers for the reason that a number of sentries stationed there disappeared in a most mysterious manner and were never again heard from.

"An American officer was once on duty that took him into the remote interior of the island, and while spending one night in a small settlement he engaged in conversation with a number of the inhabitants of the place. One old man, on learning that the officer was stationed at Fort San Cristobal, became especially interested and in the course of the conversation told the following story:

"I used to be a soldier in the Spanish army and was stationed at Fort San Cristobal. A number of soldiers while on sentry duty had mysteriously disappeared from the sentry box down by the sea, and we had all become convinced that it was haunted by the devil, who, we thought, used to come and steal the soldiers away. "One stormy night it fell to my lot to go on duty in the devil's sentry box, as we called it, at midnight, and it was with some doubts and misgivings that I went with the corporal of the guard and relieved the former sentry. When they left me I listened to the sound of their footfalls reverberating from the walls and ceiling of the dark and narrow passage, ever growing fainter and fainter as they receded, until finally the noise of the storm and the sea completely drowned it, and I was left alone with the mad elements.

"It was a mad night and one well calculated to add to the feeling of awe that the devil's sentry box always instilled into the man on duty there at night.

"Presently my attention was attracted by some lights in a small tavern on the shore below the fort, where many of us were wont to go when off duty for a glass of rum. Then I began to think that I might be able to climb down over the rocks to the shore, get a glass of rum at the tavern and return to my post.

"The more I thought of it the more determined I was to go, so finally, leaving my rifle and belt in the sentry box, I climbed over the wall and down on to the rocks and so made my way with great labor and difficulty and no little danger to the little house, where the occupants were making merry with dancing and drinking. I soon fell to and enjoyed myself with them.

"When one is dancing with a fair senorita he sometimes forgets the passage of time, as I did on that fatal night, and not until long after 1 o'clock did I begin to think of returning to my post. Then, realizing that the corporal had made his inspection and had found me gone from my post and with my rifle and belt left behind, I saw only a court martial and the garrote staring me in the face, for in those days for a sentinel in the Spanish army to quit his post meant sure death, even in peace.

"To go back was out of the question. There was only one thing left for me to do, and that was to desert. My heart sank within me. If I should be captured, the same fate would be meted out to me; but, I reasoned, if I were to go back the fate would be a certainty, whereas if I deserted at least I had a chance of keeping out of sight of the authorities. I deserted and before morning was out of the city and on the way to the mountains.

"I have lived in this little hamlet for years and have never been back to the capital since that day, nor have I ever told my story to a single soul until tonight, but now that the Spaniards are gone I no longer fear for my life. "Thus we have the story of the devil's sentry box from one of the very men who so mysteriously disappeared from it, and it would seem to be probable that the other disappearances could be accounted for in a similar manner were the truth known. Quien sabe?"

# REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE ASTORIA NATIONAL BANK

At Astoria, in the State of Oregon, at the close of business, July 15, 1908:

RESOURCES.	
Loans and discounts.....	\$437,627.22
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured.....	6,567.06
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation.....	47,500.00
U. S. Bonds to secure U. S. Deposits.....	20,000.00
Other Bonds to secure U. S. deposits.....	34,000.00
Premiums on U. S. Bonds.....	3,045.00
Bonds, securities, etc.....	52,888.21
Banking house, furniture, and fixtures.....	4,030.00
Other real estate owned.....	8,233.41
Due from National Banks (not reserve agents).....	2,504.77
Due from State Banks and Bankers.....	4,990.47
Due from approved reserve agents.....	129,700.61
Checks and other cash items.....	2,098.11
Notes of other National Banks.....	1,900.00
Fractional paper currency, nickels, and cents.....	345.02
Lawful money reserve in bank, viz:	
Specie.....	\$76,507.75
Legal-tender notes.....	1,220.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent of circulation).....	2,375.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$835,532.63</b>

LIABILITIES.	
Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus fund.....	50,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid.....	17,508.47
National Bank notes outstanding.....	41,600.00
Individual deposits subject to check.....	\$322,066.62
Demand certificates of deposit.....	\$46,945.46
Time certificates of deposit.....	\$257,270.33
Certified checks.....	141.75
U. S. deposits.....	50,000.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$835,532.63</b>

State of Oregon, County of Clatsop, ss: I, J. E. Higgins, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. E. HIGGINS, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of July, 1908. E. Z. FERGUSON, Notary Public.

# REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Of Astoria, at Astoria, in the State of Oregon, at the close of business, July 15, 1908:

RESOURCES.	
Loans and discounts.....	\$409,577.18
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured.....	2,646.64
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation.....	47,000.00
Premiums on U. S. Bonds.....	1,400.00
Bonds, securities, etc.....	55,430.00
Due from National Banks (not reserve agents).....	71,146.56
Due from State Banks and Bankers.....	21,071.73
Due from approved reserve agents.....	179,139.80
Checks and other cash items.....	1,477.27
Notes of other National Banks.....	5,265.00
Nickels and cents.....	671.85
Lawful money reserve in bank, viz:	
Specie.....	\$190,500.00
Legal-tender notes.....	370.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent of circulation).....	2,350.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$988,046.03</b>

LIABILITIES.	
Capital stock paid in.....	\$100,000.00
Surplus fund.....	25,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid.....	20,795.47
National Bank notes outstanding.....	47,000.00
Individual deposits subject to check.....	\$634,723.72
Demand certificates of deposit.....	\$159,726.84
Certified checks.....	\$800.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$988,046.03</b>

State of Oregon, County of Clatsop, ss: I, S. S. Gordon, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

S. S. GORDON, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of July, 1908. V. BOELLING, Notary Public.

Correct—Attest: G. C. FLAVEL, W. F. MCGREGOR, J. WESLEY LADD, Directors. Subscribe to the Morning Astorian. Cardinals' Great Pitching Staff. President Stanley Robison says his 'Cardinals' National League team has the best pitching staff in either league.

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