WILL THE WEST GROW DEAD LIKE CHINA?

Furnished by a Man Who Has Studied the Effects *of* Deforestation in the Far East--Great Mongolian Desert Was Once a Fertile Farming Country--Warning to United States

Significant Parts of President Roosevelt's Message

IT HAS come to pass that an intrepid but obscure explorer of the department of agriculture in far off China has written a goodly block of the president's message to congress, and has further been the inspiration which has placed that document on the list of those illustrated by actual photographs. Frank N. Meyer has tramped for three years over the so called "Flowery Kingdom," penetrating to sections never before seen by white man, suffering hardships and dangers that would read like chapters from the alluring literature that in yellow backs so appeals to adventurous youth) and finally producing the facts and proofs of one of the greatest object lessons in the world in governmental mismanagement. He has caught and chrystalised the harrowing results of deforestation.

Destroy Trees.

The people of China for many hundreds of years have followed the same system of disregard for final consequences of ruthlessly cutting down trees that is today being observed in America, and as a result barren, uninhabitable wastes extend over a great portion of the empire which was once the scene of prosperous homes for millions. President Roosevelt grasped the power of this object lesson and incorporated parts of Meyer's report and many of his photographs into his message to the last congress to which he will send recommendations. Says the president:

"The lesson of deforestation in China is a lesson which mankind should have learned many times already from what has occurred in other places. Denudation leaves naked soil; then gullying cuts down to the bare rock; and meanwhile the rock waste buries the bottom lands. When the soil is gone, men must go, and the process does not take long.

This ruthless destruction of the forests in northern China has brought about or has aided in bringing about desolation, just as the destruction of the forests in central Asia, aided in bringing ruin to the once rich central Asian cities; just as the destruction of the forests in northern Africa helped towards the ruin of a region that was a fertile granary in Roman days. Short sighted man, whether barbaric, semi-civilized, or what he mistakably regards as fully civilized, when he has destroyed the forests, has rendered certain the ultimate destruction of the land itself. Not only have the forests been destroyed, but because of their destruction the soil has been washed off the naked rock. The terrible consequence is that it is impossible now to undo the damage that has been done. Many centuries will have to pass before soil will again collect, or could be made to collect in sufficient quantity once more to support the old time forest growth. In consequence the Mongol desert is practically extending eastward over northern China. The climate has changed, and is still changing. It has changed even within the last half century, as the work of tree destruction has been consummated."

Mr. Meyer's Travels.

Mr. Meyer, who is now in Washington, brings the conditions very directly home by his first hand descriptions of conditions. In speaking of the barrenness of the populous empire, he said:

"Whereever one turns his eyes in China in search of forests he meets nothing but disappointment, for generally speaking there are no forests left. Yet in days gone by that glorious land, with climate and soils remarkably similar to our own, was covered with timber and with woods, of which it is hard nowadays to form any adequate comprehension. But the remnants are there yet, and these last survivals serve us, like rudimentary organs of animals, to draw up the whole map as it once must have been.

"To realize what the extremes are to which the destruction of the forests have driven the people one has only to go to the immediate neighborhood of any of the cities or villages and observe how every blade of grass and every stick is cut by the knife. Every leaf even is gathered and carried away to be used as fuel, and men, boys and women toil patiently to collect the smallest twigs,

FRANK N. MEYER, THE EXPLORER.

often having to tramp many miles from their homes to get even this poor fuel and laboriously carry it back again on their backs.

"This very same process on a greater scale has been the system to which China has been deforested. The people have always gone freely into the woods and cut and slashed without regard to the future, and all the timber has been destroyed. Many years ago they fell upon the old stumps and roots, and these have been grubbed out far under ground. Not a vestige of a tree is left when the crying demand for wood has worn itself out."

Desert the Result.

With the beginning of this tree destruction what is now the Manchurian desert was a thickly inhabited body of land, well watered, covered with timber, mountainous and inhabited by people who lived largely by agriculture. The demand for wood became great as the population increased, and the hillsides were denuded. The demand continued, and they were stripped to the soil, and with the passing of the vegetation began the erosion and all its accompanying disadvantages. On the steep hillsides there was nothing to hold back the water when it rained, and no roots to carry it into the ground. It ran off rapidly and carried the exposed soil with it. In the course of time nothing remained on the mountain sides but the bare exposed rocks.

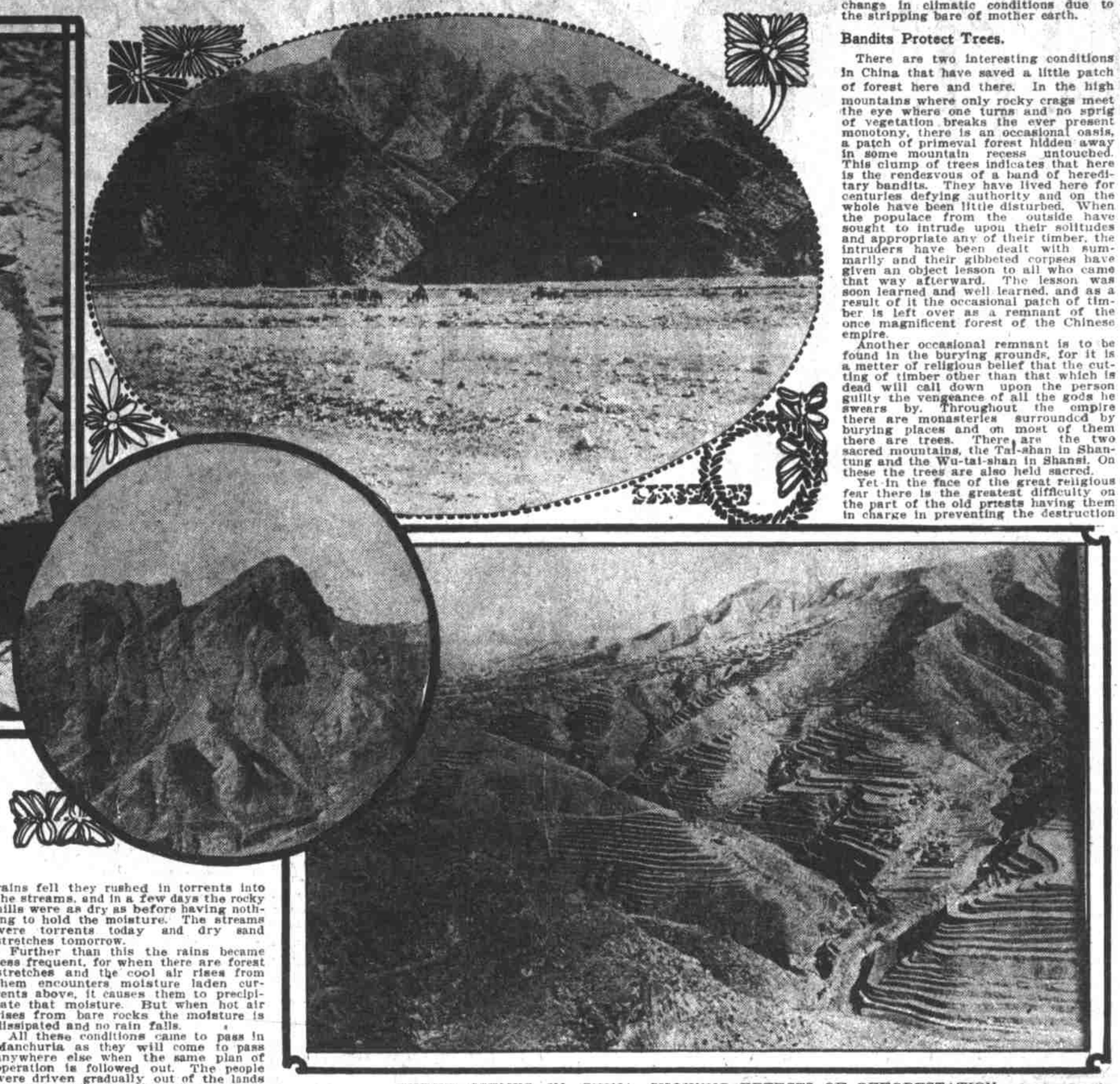
"The soil has been washed onto the farms below and destroyed them. When rains fell they rushed in torrents into the streams, and in a few days the rocky hills were as dry as before having nothing to hold the moisture. The streams were torrents today and dry sand stretches tomorrow.

Further than this the rains became less frequent, for when there are forest stretches and the cool air rises from them encounters moisture laden currents above, it causes them to precipitate that moisture. But when hot air rises from bare rocks the moisture is dissipated and no rain falls.

All these conditions came to pass in Manchuria as they will come to pass anywhere else when the same plan of operation is followed out. The people were driven gradually out of the lands in which they had formerly lived in plenty and consumed more timber stretches as they went, and the desert followed them. Today it has stretched half way across the empire, and is still marching on.

Marco Polo's Troubles.

Much of this destruction is sufficiently modern as to be recorded by men from the western nations who have traveled in China. When Marco Polo visited China in mediaeval times he wrote of journeys in boats on streams that are now entirely dried up. The Sungari river in Manchuria is now known to be drying up and men alive today tell of its former glory when it ran always full of crystal water. On the trip between Peking and Jehol there is every evidence of the fact that the forests have but renently passed and conversation with the natives brings out the fact that but 30 or 40 years ago there were waving forests on these hillsides. The conditions of many of the streams that once teemed with industry is becoming appalling.



THREE SCENES IN CHINA SHOWING EFFECTS OF DEFORESTATION.

The people are all the time being concentrated more and more in the lowlands and along the coasts and numbers that were before overpowering have become so great that famine is a thing that can with difficulty be avoided. The death from starvation of many thousands of people within the last two years has been entirely due to outrages on the forests. The once productive lands have become deserts and on these lands still farmed the rainfall is uncertain because of an entire change in climatic conditions due to the stripping bare of mother earth.

Bandits Protect Trees.

There are two interesting conditions in China that have saved a little patch of forest here and there. In the high mountains where only rocky crags meet the eye where one turns and no sprig of vegetation breaks the ever present monotony, there is an occasional oasis, a patch of primeval forest hidden away in some mountain recess untouched. This clump of trees indicates that here is the rendezvous of a band of hereditary bandits. They have lived here for centuries defying authority and on the whole have been little disturbed. When the populace from the outside have sought to intrude upon their solitudes and appropriate any of their timber, the intruders have been dealt with summarily and their gibbeted corpses have given an object lesson to all who came that way afterward. The lesson was soon learned and well learned, and as a result of it the occasional patch of timber is left over as a remnant of the once magnificent forest of the Chinese empire.

Another occasional remnant is to be found in the burying grounds, for it is a metter of religious belief that the cutting of timber other than that which is dead will call down upon the person guilty the vengeance of all the gods he swears by. Throughout the empire there are monasteries surrounded by burying places and on most of them there are trees. There are the two sacred mountains, the Tai-shan in Shantung and the Wu-tai-shan in Shansi. On these the trees are also held sacred.

Yet in the face of the great religious fear there is the greatest difficulty on the part of the old priests having them in charge in preventing the destruction of and carrying away of the trees. The tree robbers in these sections have become notorious. The manner of these robbers is to so damage trees as to cause them to die and then there is the excuse for cutting them down, and the superatition does not apply to dead trees. Throughout these sacred forests there is evidence of deliberate damage being constantly done trees in order that they will die and may be then cut down.

Mr. Meyer reports having visited the graveyard of the family of Confucius at Chefu and to have observed the manner in which workmen had caused the death of a huge oak near the tomb of the great philosopher. He saw one of these men strip a piece of bark off the tree. He examined it and found that such a strip had evidently been removed every day for months. In this method a strip around the tree three feet wide was being made with the evident intent of killing the tree. The object was almost accomplishd at the time.

Kiling the Pines.

A little later at the eastern tombs where the mausoleum in which rests the remains of the late emepress dowager Mr. Meyer found that great pieces had been cut out of trees in such a way that they would die. He even found some men and boys uprooting a small tree and when he asked them for their permits they took to their heels and ran, not even stopping for their coats.

The scarcity of timber and the hardships suffered for the lack of it is responsible for this disregard for even religion in procuring a few sticks of it. The industries of China are sadly held back because of a lack of timber. The mines cannot be worked because there is no material with which to construct. Railroads cannot be built as there is no wood to be had for ties. Every stick of timber that is used must be imported from the outside and while a few western companies are profiting largely the natives are suffering.

Matters as they exist in China are an absolute condition. There is nothing of theory or speculation as to what the results of a policy of forest destruction are in this instance. Once fertile areas, wooded, densely inhabited and productive are now desert wastes and for no other reason than that the timber has been removed. The conditions were similar in China a few hundreds years ago to those here in America today and the latitudes, vegetation and soils were the same. The case is cited as absolute proof of what conditions may be expected here if the forests are not taken care of. It is held that the men from "Missouri" who refuse to acknowledge the necessity for prompt action in forest protection have been shown. The president further says in his message:

Time for Action.

"If there is any one duty which more than another we owe it to our children and our children's children to perform at once, it is to save the forests of this country, for they constitute the first and most important element in the conservation of the natural resources of the country.

"Short sighted persons, or persons blinded to the future by the desire to make money in every way out of the present, sometimes speak as if no great damage would be done by the reckless destruction of our forests. It is difficult to have patience with the arguments of these persons. Thanks to our own recklessness in the use of our splendid forests we have already crossed the verge of a timber famine in this country, and no measures that we now take can, at least for many years, undo the mischief that has already been done. But we can prevent further mischief being done; and it will be in the highest degree reprehensible to let any consideration of temporary convenience or temporary cost interfere with such action, especially as regards the national forests which the nation can now, at this very moment, control.

"All serious students of the question are aware of the great damage that has been done in the Mediterranean countries of Europe, Asia and Africa by deforestation. The similar damage that has been done in eastern Asia is less well known. What has thus happened in northern China, what has happened in central Asia, in Palistine, in north Africa, in parts of the Mediterranean countries of Europe, will surely happen in our country if we do not exercise that wise forethought which would be one of the chief marks of any people calling itself civilized. Nothing should be permitted to stand in the way of the preservation of the forests, and it is criminal to permit individuals to purchase a little gain for themselves through the destruction of forests, when this destruction is fatal to the well being of the whole country in the future."

CLOSER BONDS BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH, TAFT'S AIM

POLITICAL conditions in the south, with particular reference to the negro's position, formed a feature of the address of President-elect William H. Taft delivered before the North Carolina society at New York city. In his remarks he said:

"What is it that sets the south apart and takes from the southern people the responsibilities which the members of a republic ought to share in the national government?

"Why is it that what is done at Washington seems to be the work of the north and the west, and not of the south? Should this state of affairs continue?

"These are the questions that force themselves on those of us concerned with the government, and who are most anxious to have a solid, united country.

"We can answer these questions as the historian would, and we can explain the situation as it is; but I don't think we can justify or excuse a continuance of it.

"Looking back into the past, of course, the explanation of the difference between the south and the other two sections was in the institution of slavery.

"It is of no purpose to point out that early in the history of the country the north was as responsible for bringing slaves here as the south, because we are not concerned with whose fault it was that slavery existed.

"I am not going to rehearse the painful history of the war or what followed it. I come at once to the present condition of things.

"It is that in all southern states it is possible by election laws prescribing proper qualifications for the suffrage, which square with the fifteenth amendment, and which shall be equally administered between the black and white races, to prevent entirely the possibility of a domination of southern state, county or municipal governments by an ignorant electorate, white or black.

"It is further true that the sooner such laws are applied with exact equality and justice to the two races the better for the moral tone of the state and community concerned.

"Negroes should be given an opportunity, equally with whites, by education and thrift, to meet the requirements of eligibility which the state legislatures in their wisdom shall lay down, in order to bring the safe exercise of the electoral franchise.

"The negro should ask nothing other than an equal chance to qualify himself for the franchise.

"The proposal to repeal the fifteenth amendment is utterly impracticable and should be regulated to the limbo of forgotten issues. What we are considering is something practical, something that means attainable progress.

"It seems to me that there is, or ought to be a common ground upon which we can all stand in respect to the race question in the south, and its political bearing, that takes away any justification for maintaining the continued solidity of the south to prevent the so-called negro domination.

"The fear that in some way or other a social equality between the races shall be enforced by law or brought about by political measures really has no foundation except in the imagination of those who fear such a result. The federal government has nothing to do with social equality. The war amendments do not declare in favor of it.

"With the elimination of the race question can we say that there are removed all the reasons why the people of the south are reluctant to give up their political solidarity and divide themselves on party lines in accordance with their economic and political view?

"No, there are other reasons, perhaps only reasons of sentiment, but with the southern people, high strung and sensitive, considerations of sentiment are frequently strong.

"In the first place, it is now nearly 40 years since the south acquired its political solidarity and the intensity of feeling by which it was maintained, and the ostracism and social proscription imposed on those white southerners who did not sympathize with the necessity for such solidarity could not but make lasting impression and create a permanent bias that would naturally outlast the reason for its original existence.

"I believe that the movement away from political solidity has started and ought to be encouraged. I think one way to encourage it is to have the south understand that the attitude of the north and the Republican party toward it is not one of criticism, political or otherwise; that they believe in the maintenance of the fifteenth amendment, but that, as already explained, they do not deem that amendment to be inconsistent with the south's obtaining and maintaining what it regards as its political safety from domination of any ignorant electorate, and that the north yearns for closer association with the south.

"The recent election has made it probable that I shall become more or less responsible for the policy of the next presidential administration, and I improve this opportunity to say that nothing will give me greater pride because nothing would give me more claim to the gratitude of my fellow citizens, if I could so direct that policy in respect to the southern states as to convince its intelligent citizens of the desire of the administration to aid them in working out satisfactorily the serious problems before them, and of bringing them and their northern fellow citizens closer in sympathy and point of view.

"During the last decade, in common with all lovers of our country, I have watched with delight and thanksgiving the bond of union between the two sections grow firmer. I pray that it may be given to me to strengthen this movement."

WHAT IT COSTS TO MAINTAIN AN ARMY

By Prof. Frederic Bastiat

IT IS with a nation as with a man. When a nation wishes to allow itself a satisfaction, it must consider whether the satisfaction is worth what it costs. If, to acquire it, it is necessary to organize 100,000 men and to spend 100,000,000 francs, it is an enjoyment purchased at the price of a sacrifice.

A member of congress proposes to disband 100,000 men in order to relieve the taxpayers to the extent of 100,000,000 francs.

The taxpayers may reply: "These 100,000 men and 1,000,000,000 francs are indispensable to our national security; it is a sacrifice, but without this sacrifice the country would be torn by factions, or invaded by a foreign enemy." To this argument I have nothing to oppose. It may be true or false, in fact, but it involves no heresy in economic theory. The heresy begins with the attempt to represent the sacrifice as an advantage, because it benefits someone.

Yet the moment such a proposition is made someone will exclaim: "Disband 100,000 men! Are you in earnest? What will become of them? How will they make a living? Will it be by labor? But don't you know that labor everywhere is crying for employment—that every trade, every profession is crowded? Would you throw them into the market to increase competition and depress wages? At a time when it is difficult to earn the humblest livelihood, is it not fortunate that the state gives bread to a hundred thousand men? Consider besides that the army consumes wine, clothes, arms—that it fosters creates activity in the workshops, in the garrison towns, and that it is, in a word, the providence of the countless who live by supplying its wants. Do you not shudder at the thought of annihilating this immense industrial movement?"

This argument, it will be seen, leaves on one side the necessity of the service and attempts to justify the maintenance of 100,000 soldiers on alleged econonic considerations. It is these considerations that I have to refute.

A hundred thousand soldiers and all the work people and tradesmen who supply their wants are supported by means of the 100,000,000 francs subscribed by the taxpayers. This is what is seen.

But the 100,000,000 francs, being taken from the taxpayers, cease to support theso taxpayers and those who supply their wants. Make the calculation, put down the figures and tell me where is the profit for the nation as a whole.

On my side, I will tell you where the loss is, and for simplicity's sake, instead of speaking of 100,000 men and 100,000,000 francs, let us reason on one man and 1000 francs.

Let us take a single village. The recruiting sergeants make their round and carry off a man. The tax collectors make their rounds also and carry off a thousand francs. The man and the money are transported to Chalous and the money keeps the man for a year in barracks. If you look only at Chalous you will see an advantage, but if you cast your eyes back to the village you will think otherwise, for unless you are blind you will see that this village has lost a laborer and has lost the thousand francs which he would have earned by his labor, and has lost the activity which, by the outlay of these thousand francs, he would have created around him.

At the first glance it would seem that the two cases exactly balance and that what before passed in the village now passes at Chalous and that is all. But the loss is in this. In the village a man dug and worked; he was a laborer; at Chalous he goes through his drills—eyes right, eyes left—he is a soldier. The money and its circulation are the same in the two cases, but in one case there are 300 days of useful labor, in the other 300 days of useless labor, always on the supposition that a part of the army could be disbanded without risk to national security.

Now, let us consider the proposed disbanding. You point to an increase of 100,000 laborers, increased competition, and the lowering effect of that on the rate of wages. But to disband 100,000 soldiers is not to annihilate 100,000,000 francs, but to restore them to the taxpayers, and by thus throwing 100,000 laborers on the market you throw by the very same act into the market the 100,000,000 francs destined to pay their labor, so, consequently, the same measure which increases the supply of labor also increases the demand for it, whence follows that your fall of wages is an illusion. Before, as after the disbanding, there are in the country 100,000,000 francs corresponding to 100,000 men. But before the disbanding the country gave the 100,000,000 francs to the 100,000 men for doing nothing; after, it gives the same amount of money to the same men for doing something.

I repeat that whether a taxpayer gives his money to a soldier in exchange for nothing or to a laborer in exchange for something, all the ulterior consequences as to the circulation of the money are the same, only in the second case, the taxpayer receives something, in the first he receives nothing. Therefore, if the soldiers are not required for national security their maintenance is pure loss to the nation.

Let those who think otherwise answer this question. If you can add to the wealth of the nation by maintaining soldiers why not enlist the whole population?

The Season.

A switch makes Johnny to behave
Eleven months of all the year,
But for the other 30 days
A tree performs the job with cheer.
—New York Sun.

SOME TREASURES OF MORGAN'S LIBRARY

J. PIERPONT MORGAN'S library is the subject of a three column article in the London Times from its New York correspondent, who compares Morgan to Lorenzo de Medici in the magnificent catholicity of his taste. In an editorial the Times goes even further, saying:

"The description furnished by our correspondent is that of the most wonderful collector of our time, perhaps of any time. The making of such a library has never been possible till the present time. It is an outcome of the age of millionaires.

"These gentlemen of vast means abound in America, and there are a few of them in Europe. One out of ten has taste, one out of a hundred has genius. Frick and Widener come under the former category, but the man of genius is Morgan."

Portions of the letter, which is reproduced in full in the New York Times, are as follows:

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"The collections include the Ashburnham Gospels and others of the most renowned bindings—relics of the days of yore, when books were few and fine—in existence; the Golden Gospels of Henry VIII. the 'Naples offices' of Giulio Clovio, and many other celebrated illuminated manuscripts; Caxtons and other incunabula that not even the British Museum can match; an amazing collection of volumes once owned by famous persons; almost the only manuscript of Byron known to exist; Blake's original drawings for the 'Book of Job'; the originals of Horace Walpole's letters, the original drawings for the 'Pickwick Papers,' the manuscript of 'Endymion,' Shelley's notebook; the manuscripts and drawings of 'Trilby' and 'Peter Ibbetson'; Cornwallis' Terms of Surrender; letters of St. Francis de Sales and other saints; the originals of many of Burns' poems; manuscripts of Dr. Johnson; the manuscript of 'A Christmas Carol' and 10 volumes of Dickens' letters; manuscripts of Swift; the earliest letter of Napoleon in existence; Scott's diary and manuscripts of nine of his novels, including 'Ivanhoe'; manuscripts of masterpieces of Dumas, Charlotte Bronte, George Sand, Reade, Lytton and Zola; the manuscript of 'Vanity Fair'; many letters of Lamb; Mary Stuart's letter to the Duc de Guise and Martha Washington's will. And this is not even an outline. I have simply enumerated, haphazard, a few of the things that happen to remain in my memory. The first apartment I entered was the great east room. With the exception of the jeweled volumes in the glass case, the room is devoted entirely to Mr. Morgan's incunabula, liturgical collections and first editions of English books. The Ashburnham Gospels, of course, needs no description; it is one of the world's treasures. But there is another binding in the same case which is not so well known and seems to be quite as interesting. It is a Flemish Liber Decretalium in vellum, and the cover is of filigree work set with amethysts, garnets, crystals and ancient intaglios. In the center is an ivory of the thirteenth century representing the Virgi reclining. This is surrounded with panels of cloisonne. The richness of this binding is indescribable, and the employment of intaglios for such a purpose is, so far as I know, unique. These jewels are evidently ancient and appear to be of the best Greek period.

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"Mention any class of rare and desirable volume in which you are interested. Aldines? There are 21 shelves of them—the finest collection in existence. Are you old fashioned enough to care for Elzevirs? Seven shelves, containing practically every rare Elzevir known, all 'tall' and in perfect condition. One could imagine Charles Nodier, or even Pixerecourt seeing this collection and selling their own books in disgust.

"Is it the Bibles that attract you? There are 30 shelves of them—two Gutenbergs (Nazadins), one on paper, the other on vellum; the Hebrew Bible of 1482; all the English Bibles from the Coverdale onward; Bibles owned by celebrated personages, such as Colbert's (in 32 volumes, with the statesman's arms on the covers); Mme. de Maintenon's; Sir Walter Scott's; Bibles in Icelandic and other strange tongues; a set of the Gospels in 10 volumes, exquisitely bound by Pasdeloup. Turn from the Bibles and the Elzevir Pastissier Francois and the Aldine Hypnerotonachia Poliphili to the other side of the room. Are you interested in Caxtons and Wynkyn de Wordes? Here are two score of them, including several that are unique. Are you attracted by Elizabethan and Jacobean first editions? Practically everything is here—Shakespeare folios and quartos, Milton, Sidney, Spencer, Johnson, Drayton, Sir Thomas Browne, Marvell, Waller, Burton, hundreds of others. And the quaint things, 'things dear that do not die,' are here, too, from the Elizabethan curiosities to the book of the Duchess beloved by Lamb, that 'fluent and rare mixture of love and wit.' All the famous pictures are represented by magnificent volumes, often in binding by masters.

"To describe the contents of the treasure room with any semblance of order, any pretense to enumerate them according to their importance, would be impossible. Everything is precious. The 'Golden Gospels' is a fascinating volume. It was given to Henry VIII by Leo X about the time the title 'Defender of the Faith' was conferred on the king and the superb binding is supposed to have been designed by Holbein.

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"There are four volumes of Burns' manuscripts, mostly letters, but the letters contain the first copies of many of the poet's best known works, including the 'Cotter's Saturday Night.' The original of Ruskin's 'La Ville Noire,' Dumas' 'Three Musketeers,' Lytton's 'Harold' and 'Last Days of Pompeii' and Zola's 'Nana,' Thackeray's 'Vanity Fair' is imperfect, but is all that exists of the script. The manuscript of Bronte's 'The Professor' is in the collection, as well as that of Reade's 'Hard Cash.' One of the most precious things is Scott's diary, in two large volumes. How this was ever allowed to leave the United Kingdom is incomprehensible. Another treasure is the volume containing Thackeray's Brookfield letters, and still another manuscript of Pope's 'Essay on Man.' There are many letters of Charles Lamb, there are the Du Maurier manuscripts and drawings, there is the book on mathematics Napoleon used as a schoolboy, besides that letter to his uncle written in 1784, which is his earliest known letter. Besides these, such things as Martha Washington's will and Nell Gwynn's title deed to her house in Pall Mall seem commonplace. The original drawings for 'Pickwick' include the suppressed Buss plates. The much discussed manuscript of 'Paradise Lost' is in the collection. There are many Shelley letters. The Walpole letters, dated from 1735 to 1736, are in four large volumes. Macauley is well represented.

"There are, of course, many autographs of well known Americans, including all the signers of the Declaration of Independence. There are letters of kings and queens and of other notable persons, any one of them beyond the possibilities, if not beyond the desires and dreams, of the ordinary collector. The manuscript of Poe's 'The Bells' is here, while of unique interest is the complete manuscript of O'Meara's diary, containing the portions of this remarkable Napoleonic document that were not printed."

Pride Rebuked.

The auto looked up at the sunny blue sky
While watching an aeroplane trying to fly.
"You're twisting," he cried, "in the craziest ways;
Why don't you watch me as I run on for days?
Just notice how I can leave blizzards behind—
While you are the plaything of rainstorm and wind."
He paused and he laughed when a zephyrish puff
Caused the tremulous airship to veer and to luff.
But e'er he could mention just where he was at,
The blamed thing fell on him and mashed him down flat.
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Present-day Necessity.

Stationer—"Typewriter ribbons? Yes, sir, we have all kinds. What particular brand do you wish?

Private Secretary (of trust magnate)—"Have you any that—er—when you use 'em, you know, the—the writing will fade away entirely in a few days?"

Dig!

From the Indianapolis News.

Another thing for you to do now is to dig out those gifts received last Christmas which you are going to unload on somebody else this year.

WILHELMINA'S MAN OF MYSTERY--Romance *of* an Oregon Town

THE ECHO of the pistol shots which, a few weeks ago, ended the life of a court clerk in Berlin and wounded the judge and several spectators present in the courtroom, has revived in the little town of Wilhelmina, Or., the almost forgotten interest in the "man of mystery," whose peculiar habits and manner of life were for several years a puzzle to the people of that community. For William Grosser, the man who fired the murderous shots, and Wilhelmina's "man of mystery" are one and the same.

For about 12 years, up to some five years ago, William Grosser lived in Oregon and maintained himself in almost feudal graudeur in the little country town of Wilhelmina. When he had come and who he was nobody knew, though it was rumored that he was a German nobleman, who for some mysterious reason, was exiled from his native country. His arrogant and haughty manner and his violent temper rebuffed even the curiosity of the country people, his neighbors, and though there were many conjectures as to his identity and origin, nobody succeeded in eliciting any definite information from him.

Grosser owned a large farm nine miles from Sheridan, upon which he had erected a house that was almost palatial in furnishing, and here he lived with his wife. In his habits he was almost a recluse, rarely going away from home. For several years he refused to visit Portland, seeming to be afraid that something might happen to him if he got to the city.

Grosser was a well educated man and his house was full of books and works of art, obtained no one knew where. He was also an accomplished musician, playing the violin exquisitely. In conversation he could, when he chose, be most charming in manner, though there was nearly always a touch of arrogance and hauteur in his bearing that did not tend to make him liked by his fellow citizens.

Grosser demanded absolute and implicit obedience from his family and those in his employ and even from persons over whom he had no authority, and whenever his will was crossed he flew into a violent fit of rage. It is related of him that on one occasion when a fine dog he owned failed to do just as he had commanded, Grosser beat the animal nearly to death. His employes were always leaving him or being discharged because he demanded of them the servile obedience that he had evidently been accustomed to in his own land, but which Americans would not render.

The "man of mystery" always seemed to have plenty of money and spent it like water. Whatever he wanted he bought and was willing to pay the full price for, and he always wanted the best. Where his money came from no one was able to find out, and this added to the romance with which, in the eyes of his neighbors, he was surrounded. However, it now appears, that Grosser's father was very wealthy and that, before coming to America, probably on account of family disagreements, Grosser had demanded and received of him his share of the inheritance.

Some years ago the elder Grosser died in Germany. William Grosser, then, notwithstanding that he had received his share of the estate in advance and had agreed to expect nothing more at the time of his father's death, put in a claim for a share of the estate, as if he had not already received all that was due him. He brought suit in the courts of Germany to obtain what he claimed, and to push this suit, he disposed of his property in Oregon and returned to his native land.

The case dragged through the courts for a long time, but at length a verdict was rendered, some weeks ago, against the contestant.

When this verdict was announced, Grosser flew into one of his customary fits of violent rage, and drawing a revolver, began to shoot. One bullet killed the clerk of the court, another badly wounded the judge, and others wounded several of the spectators.

The account of this tragic occurrence has served to revive in Wilhelmina the interest in the "man of mystery," who a few years ago lived there—but it has not solved the mystery that surrounded him.

An Old Story.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Miss O'Connor told this one:

"A refined clubwoman got on a car and sat down in the only vacant seat beside a rough looking man who was chewing tobacco and spitting. She eyed him in great scorn. He took out his pipe and lighted it, and she looked him over with greater scorn, of which he seemed to be unconscious. Next he took an onion from his dinner pail and ate it, and then he took out a bottle and took a drink of whiskey. The lady could stand it no longer. She said to him:

"'If I were your wife I would give you poison.'

"He turned, looked her from top to toe with deepest contempt and replied:

"'Well, bedad, I'd take it.'"