### ILLUSIONS.

to stand at night upon an ocean craft, and watch the folds of its imperial train atching in Seesy foam a thousand glows—a mirsele of fire unquenched by sea.

There, in bewildering turbulence of change.

Whire the whole firmament, till as you gaze. se unseen, it is as heaven itself Bad lost its poise, and each unanchored star in phantom haste flees to the horizon line.

What dupes we are of the deceiving eyel How many a light men wonderingly acclaim is but the phosphor of the path Life makes With its own motion, while above, forgot. Sweep on serene the old unenvious stars!
-Robert Underwood Johnson in Century

## AN ARIZONA ADVENTURE

While in command of a small sconting party in Arizona I went into camp one bright day on the Rio Puerco, very near the New Mexican line The tents had been pitched and the animals sent out to graze under a strong guard, and I was walking before my tent impatiently waiting a summons to dinner, which I knew by the strong odor wafted from an adjacent coffee pot would not be much

longer delayed We were about ninety miles from the nearest fort and hundreds from any settlement There were no ranches whatsoever in this part, only some cattle and sheep belonging to Mexicans, which were herded through the territory These were in the charge of Mexicans, who lived much the same kind of life as did their stock. Their blanket was their only house, and when night came on they would lie down wherever it might overtake them. For miles around the land was as level as the bed of a billiard table. Mountains were seen in the distance, which were inhabited by Indians But my little command and a few rattlesnakes and tarantulas were the only living things near

'Dinner is ready, lieutenant," was the welcome summons with which my cook greeted me, and I was soon doing full justice to an army field dinner of bear. soup and "slapjacks."

I was in the midst of this savory repast when I noticed a stranger approaching me He was a well built, powerful looking man, about forty years of age; his face was intellectual and extremely handsome, he wore a full beard and mustache, both of which were iron gray He was coarsely clad and carried no weapon This latter circumstance was the most remarkable thing of all, for in those days in Arizona one scarcely moved without his arms.

Nearing me he asked, in a pleasant, quiet manner, if I were the commanding

I replied that I was. 'I came to see if you could lend me a pistol or a carbine for a few days," he

'You don't mean to tell me that you are entirely without arms?" I said, not unreasonably astonished.

'Yes; I have nothing of the kind," he newered. "I have been annoyed for the past three months by those infernal california lions, and if I had a shooting iron I might kill some of them.'

'Are you camping near here?" I asked 'I live just round the bend of the river. Will you walk down with me?"

Little dreaming I was so near a residence, I eagerly accepted his invitation and filling my pipe and leaving the ser geant in charge of camp, I started forth: with my new acquaintance. As we made the turn in the river I saw a large. shelving rock rising from the level praizie. It was not more than a hundred yards from the river's bank, and was really quite imposing in its dimensions It struck me as so peculiar, so entirely out of place, that I expressed my surprise o my companion

'Yes," he answered: 'I fancy it is a meteorite. I am under great obligations to it, whatever it is and however it came ere, for it has protected me for months That rock is my house.

Greatly astonished. I asked if he lived there quite alone.

'Oh, no," he replied. 'My wife and mother live with me."

By this time we had reached the natural dwelling. At what might be termed its opening the rock was ten feet or more from the ground, and it sheltered a space about twenty feet in breath. gradually sloping backward and downward As I stepped under the protecting roof I saw two women sitting at

My host presented me to his mother and wife respectively, and I saw at a glance that they were Mexicans; not of the class, however, known as greasers but representatives of a much higher Like most Mexicans, they were disinclined to converse in any language but their own, but when they learned that my knowledge of their tongue was too slight to enable me to understand them, they overcame their reluctance

and we chatted quite pleasantly I learned that they had been living there for three months. They came with the intention of farming, and later

proposed erecting a suitable dwelling.

The Indians had not molested them but they were worried by the lions which came by twos and threes nightly to the opening of their habitation, and there howled till daylight, when they returned to the mountain.

They told me it was necessary for one of them to be up all night to keep the are burning, which was their only pro tection from these monsters.

Consequently they had taken turns sitting up nights for the last three

What surprised me most was the beence of all defensive weapons and g implements. Not an article of the kind was in their possession. I saw one horse grazing near by, and a dilapi dated wagon. Neither shovel, ax nor pistol was to be seen.

It was very apparent that the man had known better days. But in that wild country inquisitiveness often cost one's tife. To be sure, I felt no fear with a good cavalry company at my back, but in most cases it was better to be satis-fied with what was told me and what I

Having listened to a graphic descrip-m of their far from pleasant neigh me. I told them frankly that if I had a

willingly lend or give them one, but all the weapons in the command, even those on my person, belonged to the government, and that the orders respecting them were so stringent that I was utterly unable to accommodate them.

"I had a pistol when I came here." said my host, "but I lost, it crossing the Since then you are the first per son that has been this way."

I felt really sorry for them, and also felt that they might think I had given a very flimsy reason for refusing the loan they asked

. That three human beings should be annoyed night after night by wild ber and a company of cavalry unable to them protection seemed incredible. such appeared to be the case.

At length a happy thought struck me "I tell you what I will do," I said. "I will send the company in charge of 'the sergeant about five miles farther down the river to encamp, then I will brung Curley with me, and we will stay here to-night with you Curley is an old frontiersman, and is acting guide for me He is a good shot, and will enjoy the

My proposal was joyfully accepted and I returned to camp to give the neces sary directions. About an hour later the company moved out, and Curley and I were alone.

"What sort of an outfit is that down there?" said my companion, pointing to the stone mansion I had recently left.

"I cannot tell you," I answered. "The people say they are worried by the lions. and I have told them you and I will stay with them tonight and sample a few."

"Some escaped jailbird, I suppose," said Curley "The country's full of "Yes," I answered, "the country is

full of them, but I am sure this man is no criminal. His manner and his appearance, barring his clothes, are those of a gentleman, and his wife seems more than ordinarily refined."

"Well," said Curley, "if they will trot out the lions for us we don't care what they are.

With that we started toward the rock The California lion may have a legitimate name, but this is the only one l have ever heard applied to him. He belongs to the panther and wildcat families, being, I believe, a cross between

The animals are much larger than wild cats, and when hungry are very ferocious. One is sufficiently powerful to pull down a deer, and two will make short work of a buffalo. Their home is in the mountains, but they come to the plains and down into the canyons in search of food

We spent the afternoon talking with our new acquaintances, who seemed well informed on many subjects. Curley. who was not a bad Mexican scholar, carried on a brief conversation with the young wife in her mother tongue. No clew. however, did he obtain as to her former history.

They gave us coffee, bread and fried bacon for supper, and our host surprised and delighted us by producing from his trunk some cigars. Not a lamp nor a candle of any description did they have. When darkness came on they went to bed or on watch, as the case might be.

We told them all to retire whenever they felt disposed, and they wanted not a second bidding. We saw that our rifles were in good order, and that our ammunition was handy, then we permitted the fire to die out. Not long did we wait; we had not been

on guard more than half an hour, when Curley whispered to me, "Did you see that thing sneaking up here?"

I had already seen it; but it was only coyote, so I said, "It is nothing but a coyote; we must not shoot, it will frighten the lions 'I believe you are right," said Curley

But how about this senator that is ap proaching?" Sure enough, here came a large lion walking proudly along, scarcely thirty

yards from us "Do not fire," said Curley. 'Wait until we can get more of them. A few minutes later four large lions

"Ready," I replied.

were in our immediate front. The man had certainly told the truth thus far. whatever his intention as to farming "You take the one on the left, and I'll take the one on the right," said Curley 'Are you ready?"

"Fire!" The report of our rifles and the screams of the startled sleepers were almost simultaneous; the three were sleeping soundly and the shots naturally startled them. I threw another cartridge into my rifle and fired at an escaping lion, but I doubt if I injured him. We rebuilt the fire and dragged two fine speci-mens of the brutes where its light would allow us to inspect them. I had shot one through the heart and Curley had sent a

bullet through the brain of the other. "I think we had better leave them outside," said Curley: "the others will

scent the blood and come back." Whether they scented the blood or not I am not prepared to say, but back they certainly came. We waited until a good opportunity offered, and then, at a given signal, fired again. Two more large lions fell, and Curley succeeded in loading and shooting one that was en-deavoring to escape. This made five that we had killed. After watching another hour without any result, we made up the fire and slept until sunrise The little family were overjoyed at beholding our night's work, and succeeded in convincing us of their sincere grati-

After breakfast Curley skinned the five animals and gallantly presented the pelts to the young wife. As we bade goodby to the rock family he said, "If you rub a little strychnine over these carcases and stake them at some little distance from your ranch you will not be troubled much longer by the lions.'

Then, with a cordial farewell, we proseeded down the river to overtake the mmand.-L. L. in Drake's Magazine.

Three million four hundred and eightyfour thousand two hundred and eighty head of cattle were received at Chicago

## REAKS OF SMUGGLING.

QUEER ARTICLES SENT BY MAIL FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

Women Find It Difficult to Resist the Desire to Bring in Presents Free of Buty-People Who Are in Other Respects Honest, Cheat the Government.

the enticements of smuggling. It has been said that no woman can resist the temptation to make an effort to carry goods subject to duty past a custom house officer, and it is a statement made by certain officials in the customs service that if every passenger on board incoming ocean steamers were thoroughly and completely searched as he might be, it is probable that not one out of fifty would be found to have resisted the allurements of just a trifling bit of smuggling to add romance to the home coming. Oftentimes such carrying in of dutiable goods is merely inadvertence. lack of knowledge or oversight.

Presents bought for the "dear ones at home" have been overlooked when an estimate was made of the dutiable goods and were only recalled to memory when attention to the residence of S. L. Brooks, name high in society and well known in painted by Paul Kreft. religious, financial or professional circles has been upon the books of the special treasury agent's office, but it is a fact worthy of note, and which reflects much credit upon the department, that such matters are kept as secret as any portion

of the work. "There is no necessity," said a man custom house, "for dragging these legal into the limit of into the light of day. Oftentimes it is a sad fact that they have occurred, and for our own satisfaction (for we are, withal, at times, men of some sensibilities) we prefer to let them drop and remain unmentioned. Then, again, there may be certain arguments used of a more or less persuasive value which would naturally induce the inspector to give as little publicity as possible to the details of the case.

A CURIOSITY IN BOOKS. "I do not mean by this to imply that the practice of bribery is in vogue to any extent. This fact may not be due to original lack of sin, but it is true, nevertheless, although honesty is enforced to a certain degree by the remembrance of the previous good record of the special sury agent's department."

Perhaps the most novel and popular form of amusement for the smuggler nowadays is to use Uncle Sam's post bags for his exciting trade. A number of books have lately been entered at the postoffice, sent from foreign countries, which were not altogether intended for reading purposes. Several months ago there was received at the New York postoffice a handsomely bound volume of Italian poetry. The book was printed on a high grade of paper and bore the date "Padua, 1733." Its title was "Le Tregedie Di Giovanni Delfino." It was probably supposed that the postoffice authorities would "pass" the book on looking at its title on its examination. Unfortunately in this, as in all cases where books are in the mail, the volume was opened and carefully examined.

A section of the center of 200 leaves was cut out, through the book, and in the cavity thus formed was placed a green table spread, with cotton embroidery, upon which an extreme valuation of three dollars could barely be placed. Buyers of antique books who have examined the volume, which is now in the ns seizure room, sav that had it not been mutilated it would have readily been worth \$100. It was addressed to Judge William Allen, of Southampton, Mass., but Judge Allen has never read it. OTHER VOLUMES.

Lately this volume has been followed by a volunte of the "Report of the British National Fisheries Exposition, which was not all a report, for quite a collection of jewelry was placed in a neatly scooped out orifice in the center of its leaves. Extremes met when a Latin dictionary was put in use as a carton for transporting a pipe, and the "Odd Fellows' Quarterly Magazine" did duty as a packing case for two razors.

A novel called "The Great Tontine" held two diminutive and very prettily decorated Chinese vases, but the height of incongruities was reached when the "Sermons of Bishop Rrookfield, of London," drifted into the New York postoffice artfully surrounding several sets of false teeth.

It is not generally known that no merchandise other than books can be shipped through the mails from foreign countries. Cigars, cutlery and chinaware, jewelry and fabrics of cotton and silk are often started on their long journey, with notations accompanying them stating that they are samples or gifts, but these casual remarks never save the goods. They find their way to the United States custom house seizure room, and there remain until the yearly auc-

Steerage passengers of the kind who seek the services of philanthropical people on landing are no freer from the taint of smuggling than their more aris tocratic brethren above deck. One of the customs inspectors saw an Italian of mean dress and poor appearance who wore on the little finger of his left hand a diamond ring which glittered in the rays of the sun shining over Miss Liberty's left shoulder as the vessel was coming up the bay. He thought the oc-currence unusual and investigated. Two thousand dollars' worth of jewelry was taken from the immigrant's person. He had fallen a victim to his own vanity. He was unable to resist the delights of making a display before his fellow pasngers.-New York World.

One word more," said a speaker, "and I am done." And the reporters found when that word was written down that it contained 1,500 syllables. The famous word of Aristophanes was outdone. The same fellow is the speaker who often says, "A single remark," and then talks for fifteen minutes.

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will be to advertise the resources of the city, and adjacent country, to assist in developing our industries, in extending and opening up new channels for our trade, in securing an open river, and in helping THE DALLES to take her proper position as the

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