

The Village Alien

Copyright, 1917, by The Century Company
By Viola Roseboro

Blossier was a little man, a little, thin, dim, bay colored man, but with as French a face and of a type so associated in our minds with dark coloring that it seemed as if he must have faded to his present tints after centuries of exposure to the weather.

The viol was much taller than he was, and of course after he began his patrol at 10 o'clock he soon found more reasons than sentimental ones for wishing it something else.

On his first round he stopped in front of every door on one side of the street and boomed forth a few deeply buzzing bars of the "Marsellaise" or still more unfamiliar and dislocated strains from "Orphee aux Enfers."

He had vague doubts as to the appropriateness of Offenbach, but the jolly



Blossier bowed his head as he stood there silent.

fragments he remembered titillated his own Gallic nerves so delightfully after the emotional tension of the song of patriotism and the exhaustion of carrying the viol that he concluded the ladies, too, must surely find them cheering.

Some of them confessed afterward that they were comforted by these sounds as of a gigantic bumblebee in musical practice. Others said they were so queer and foreignlike they made them lonesome than before.

They fairly "loved" to hear even that old fiddle grumble out an attempt at "Dixie" or "Juliana Johnson Coming to Town." The night wore on—

And, oh, how slow that head eyed star Has tracked the chilly gray!

"The morning lies away."

Mrs. Pembroke, moved by a half-conscious remorse for her daylight ungraciousness, came out to her gate as Blossier stopped there for the second time and asked him to have "a drink and a snack."

Pretty Miss Molly Boon called to him once as he went by her mother's house and asked him to come in and help her move a sick child. Miss Molly gave him a cup of coffee. The east was gray with the weeping dawn when Blossier, weary enough, stopped before the last house at the end of a street. His bow arm dropped; his eyes fastened themselves on a corner of the house. Yes; there it was—fire! A curling spit of flame leaped, vivid in the darkness, around the corner above the floor of the porch.

The double bass fell. Blossier ran up the walk. Before he could reach the house the sneaking flame had grown bolder. It had fastened itself into the wooden pillar by the wall. He shouted; he threw a stone at the door as he ran. Around the corner the fire was bursting up from a pile of debris against the wall. It caught like teeth in the dry clapboards. The porch pillar was burning. Blossier ran in upon the blaze. He had torn off his coat and wrapped it around his face, and he kicked and knocked the brands far out into the gravel walk and the grass. Two women were now beside him. It looked as if the house would go. The little flames were burning merrily. That meant most of the town would go, for the fire down wind was springing up. They brought buckets of water and a ladder, and manfully Blossier was whipping the fire with a shovel he had caught from one of them. He consoled to command the women without losing a second; he made them pour water from the floor above; he fought like a fiend. Suddenly a memory of the barricades rose clear and sharp within him as he had not remembered them for years. The spirit of war awaked like a trumpet's note within the little man, and his soul responded to its own cry for the salvation of "les femmes et les enfants."

It was a sight to see the alien, old Blossier, in the wild growing light, his life in his hand, his clothes burning upon him, his face scorched and smoke blackened, fighting at the close quarters of a death struggle an enemy that was not his enemy, gaining a victory that did not save him.

The joyous light was pouring over the summer earth in delicate, elating wafts when the last flame flickered out, and Blossier fell amid the cinders as if he, too, were gone.

"The crying women, one white, one black, bent over him. The old negress started to lift him, but her mistress caught her arm.

"Aunt 'Cindy," she said, "take his feet." And she pushed the servant aside and stooped herself over the ghastly face.

"Miss Jane," said the other, "I kin tote him by m'self. You's too trembly."

"I'll help tote this man into my house myself, Aunt 'Cindy," was Jane McGrath's answer, and together they lifted their burden.

"Into the spare room," said she in

SAVED HIS FINGER.

The Faithful Brahman Feels, However, That He Had Lost Cause.

One day a Brahman accidentally touched some unclean object with his little finger. The Brahman thought that now, his little finger having become unclean, any substance which it touched would be also rendered unclean and thus make him an unclean man. Being no other way to get out of the scrape he resolved to get the offending member amputated. Forthwith he went to a carpenter and explained to him that unless the finger was cut off he (the Brahman) was unable to take food. The carpenter tried to dissuade the devotee and urged that an application of some drops of water from the sacred river Ganga would make the finger once more holy, but the Brahman persisted. He said that the finger was of no use to him any longer and that he would not rest until it was severed.

As a final recourse the carpenter resolved to play his awkward customer a trick. He told the Brahman to put his finger on an anvil and to look to the sky while the wood was inflicted. The Brahman did so. The carpenter took up a hatchet and gave the finger a smart blow under the back of it. This elicited a cry of pain from the patient, who at once put the finger in his mouth to allay the agony. The carpenter, laughing, explained to the Brahman that the blow had missed and the little finger was still entire; and, worst of all, the Brahman had defiled himself by putting the finger into his mouth.

The obliging operator, moreover, offering to perform the operation once more, but the Brahman had had enough pain for the nonce and declined with thanks. —Golden Penny.

Some Mustache History.

What is the history of the mustache? In Greece and Rome no mustaches were worn without beads, but in the conquering days of the Roman empire several half-civilized races who had come partially under the influence of the Romans and who wished to be rid of the name of barbaric or wearers of beads, attempted to shave in imitation of their conquerors; but, as they had very imperfect implements for the purpose and as the upper lip is notoriously the hardest part of the face to shave in the case of any one poorly skilled in the art, they were unable to make a clean job of it and left a quantity of hair on the upper lip. This hair, which was the origin of the mustache, was characteristic of several nations of the Gauls in particular, of the Daicians and some others. The Latin language has no word for mustache. This barbarous accident was unworthy of the honor of a Roman name. —Exchange.

The Dinner Hour.

It is a curious fact that with almost every generation the dinner hour has undergone a change, the principal meal of the day being eaten at different periods, from 10 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night. The author of "The Measures of the Table" points out that in England 400 or 500 years ago people took four meals—breakfast at 7, dinner at 10, supper at 4 and liveries at 8. In France in the thirteenth century 9 in the morning was the dinner hour; Henry VII. dined at 11. In Cromwell's time 1 o'clock had come to be the fashionable hour and in Addison's day 2 o'clock, which gradually was transformed into 4. Pope found fault with Lady Suffolk for dining so late as 4. Four and 5 continued to be the popular dining hours among the aristocracy until the second decade of the nineteenth century, when dinner was further postponed, from which period it has steadily continued to encroach upon the evening.

A Hint at Tennyson.

In the "New Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle" is a letter to her husband in which occurs the following amusing little fling at Tennyson: "Did you know that Alfred Tennyson is to have a pension of £200 a year, after all? Peel has stated his intention of recommending him to her gracious majesty, and that is considered final—'A chacun selon sa capacite'." Lady Harriet told me he wanted to marry; 'must have a woman to live beside; would prefer a lady, but cannot afford one, and so must marry a maidervent.' Mrs. Henry Taylor said she was about to write him in behalf of their household, who was quite a superior character in her way."

Weight of a Growing Child.

The weight of a growing child is the most important index to its general health. The standard of weight for growing children, that usually given by authorities in the matter, is that at five years of age a child should weigh about as many pounds as it is inches high. As a rule, this will not be much over or under forty pounds. Children who come of large parents should weigh something more than that. The rate of increase should be about two pounds for every inch of growth, with a tendency for the weight to exceed this standard proportionately, rather than to fall below it. When a child is rather heavier in proportion to its height than this standard it is a sign of good health. If the child is growing rapidly it should not be allowed to fall much below it without being made to rest more than has been the custom before. A deficiency of weight in proportion to height is always an unfavorable sign. Any interruption in the progress of increase of weight, especially during the continuance of growth, must be a danger signal that should not be neglected by those interested in the patient.

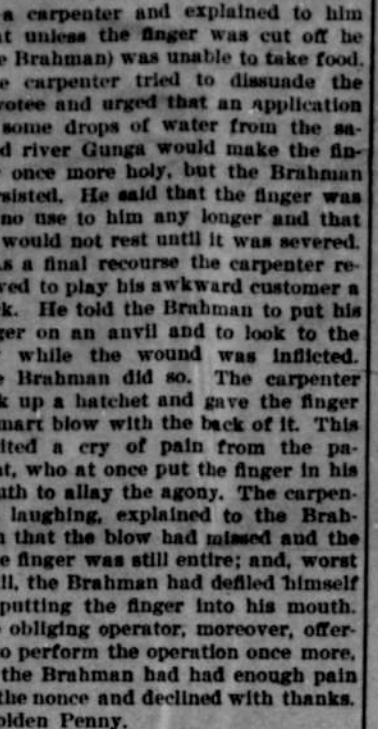
Speechmaking.

"What do you think of my speech?" said the aspiring young orator. "Not bad," said the old man of experience. "I devoted a great deal of thought to it." "Yes, that's a mistake young men are apt to make. You put thoughts into your speeches instead of telling the audience stories."

WOMAN AND FASHION

White Swiss Blouse. The finer the material the better it is for blouses this year. The sheer material is given color by elaborate ribbons in the corsage cover, finished with a huge bow in front.

The model for a blouse here illustrated is especially becoming in a stout



FOR AFTERNOON WEAR.

figure. It is put into puffs across the shoulders, with bands of drawn work between, and a collar of drawn work feathered into place. The sleeves are gathered above and below the elbow, finished with a narrow band of drawn work.

Dress Hats.

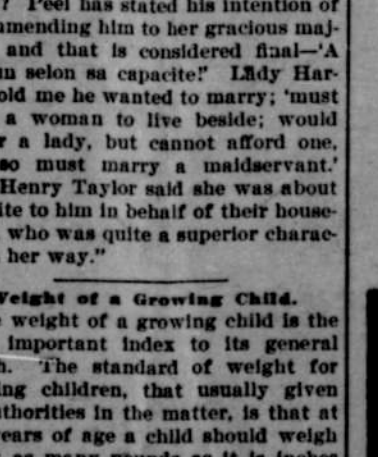
The most recent development of fancy in hats for elegant dress in summer are those which are made objectively of embroidered mull and laces. The mull and the laces in these hats show specially designed crown tops and brim coverings, and these in the making up of the hats are stretched tightly and smoothly over the wire frame, the creation being transparent or semitransparent, according to the absence of lining or the character of the lining employed.

To Prevent Stretching.

Box or side plaits running the full length of the skirt in front and back, with a hip yoke at the sides, are especially favored for the walking skirt, and here again a slight precaution in regard to the unlined skirt will save trouble. A strip of silk lined cloth tacked inside the broad front and back box plaits and holding them in place to a point below the hips will prevent a stretching which is almost inevitable without such precaution and would spoil the snug fit of the skirt around the hips.

French Blouse Frocks.

One of the most popular styles of the season is a little French blouse frock. It is a style that is easily made and is desirable for thin materials. In the prettiest frock illustrated a white vest frills enter into the ornamentation.



FOR A LITTLE GIRL.

The full blouse and square neck are decidedly pretty and childish looking. The skirt is the full gathered one. The waist line is decorated by a sash, with a large bow in the back. The material may be white or colored.

His Bad Memory.

"I suppose," said the condoling neighbor, "that you will erect a handsome monument to your husband's memory?"

"To his memory?" echoes the tearful widow. "Why, poor John hadn't any. I was sorting over some of the clothes he left behind and found the pockets full of letters I had given him to mail."

The son of the self-made man generally begins at the top and works downward. —Chicago Record-Herald.

PISCATORY STUPIDITY.

The Fish's Capacity For Learning Is Painfully Contrasted.

Most fishes seek their food by sight, says Professor Edmund Clark Sanford in the International Quarterly, and these do not usually notice it by any other sense. But those that are accustomed to find it by smell seldom pay any attention to it when they merely see it.

Calfish depend principally on the sense of taste, and they seem to taste all over, not only in the mouth, but by the outer skin as far back as the tail fin.

It is uncertain whether fishes can feel pain or not. There is a good deal of evidence to show that they cannot. A fish that has lost its sight may learn to avoid an obstacle after swimming against it a single time, but fishes that can see will jump against the plate glass wall of an aquarium day after day, sometimes for a year, in the effort to catch things outside.

The element of consciousness in the mind of a fish foot up a total "equivalent, perhaps, to the lowest idiom when measured by human standards." It is possible that the fish's capacity for learning is "about on a level with that of a man in deep sleep or preoccupation."

Birds That Exercise Ingenuity.

Birds building on high trees are not so wary about the concealment of their nests as hedge builders and those that seek the springing corn or grass land for the shelter of their homes, trusting to the loftiness of situation for security. A nest placed upon the ground is in constant danger of exposure. A brooding animal might destroy it. Then the acytle with one sweep occasionally lays here or more nests, thereby endangering the eggs or calow nestlings. This renders the parent birds very wary and causes them to practice great ingenuity in their efforts to protect the young birds.

The skylark has been known to carry its egg or offspring to a place of safety after an exposure of the nest, and it has been said its long hind claw—the use of which has puzzled many naturalists—is specially adapted by nature for more easily grasping and transporting its treasures from the source of danger. When the young birds are too bulky to be thus removed the parent bird carries them on its back, though this mode of removal is a somewhat difficult one. —London Tit-Bits.

Jefferson and the Patent Office.

The first patron of our patent system was Thomas Jefferson, who during three years gave his personal attention to every application for a patent. He used to call the secretary of war and the attorney general to examine and scrutinize with him, and they did it so thoroughly that in one year—the first—they granted only three patents.

The very first patent of all was given to Samuel Hopkins in 1790 for pearl ash. Mr. Jefferson held that the patent system was not one for creating revenue, but for encouraging a production of that which is to be of benefit to the whole people. In the first twelve years a single clerk in the state department and a few pigeonholes were all that the business of the office required.

Spiders Like Music.

A violinist says spiders are notoriously and historically fond of music. At one of his performances the concert hall was made disagreeable by a sudden invasion of spiders, which were drawn by his violin out from the cracks and crannies of the ancient building. They crawled about the floor and on to the stage, and he could see the annoyed audience stamping on the insects. The writer adds that he has known a small garden snake to be attracted by piano playing and a young calf to whisk his tail and prance about most gleefully at the first notes of a French horn. His neck would curve about proudly, his hoofs tread lightly and his ears wag joyously when the tooting began, and he never quieted down till the music ceased.

Peculiar Privileges.

The speaker of the house of commons has several peculiar privileges. Every year he receives a gift from the master of the buckhounds of a buck and doe killed in the royal preserves. This custom goes back so far that there is no record of it. Later in the year the speaker receives another tribute from the different sources. The donors on the second occasion are the Cloth Workers' company of London, who send to the speaker of the house of commons and to several of his majesty's ministers a generous width of the best broadcloth to be found in England.

Where It Always Rains.

There is a group of islands to the south of New Zealand called the Sisters, or Seven Sisters, which are reputed to be subjected to a practically constant rainfall. The same may be said of the islands and mainland of Tierra del Fuego, save for the difference that the rain often takes the form of sleet and snow. On a line running round the world from 4 degrees to 8 or 9 degrees there are patches over which rain seldom ceases to fall. This is called the "zone of constant precipitation," but at the same time there are several localities along with it with very little rainfall.

Teeth.

Small, chalk white teeth are a sign of a weak constitution. Strong, normal teeth are large and yellowish white. Sometimes an enthusiastic pearl hunter in depicting the charms of his heroine will give her two rows of pearls between her ruby lips. The truth of the matter is nothing could be more ghastly or unnatural or unbecoming than teeth made of pearls. It is only "store teeth" that possess a high polish.

BLAKE, MOFFITT & TOWNE

BOOK, NEWS, STATIONERY AND PRINTING PAPERS
CARD STOCK
"Straw and Binders Board."
65-67-69-71 First Street
Tel. Main 190. 8 SAN FRANCISCO.

WHY WE ARE AGENTS

Here Are Some of the Convincing Facts That Caused us to Take the Agency for the Fulton Compounds, the First Things Known that Cure Chronic Kidney Diseases.

First, let it be distinctly understood that every one of the cases below had been diagnosed by one or more physicians as chronic and incurable; second, note the certainty of the results as shown by the recovery also of the friends they told who were similarly afflicted with supposed incurable kidney diseases.

N. W. Spaulding, President Spaulding Sew Co., San Francisco, had a recovery in his own family and told several others who recovered.

Adolph Weiss, capitalist, San Francisco, recovered himself and told two friends who recovered, among them being an old-school physician.

Engelle, editor of the German paper, San Francisco, recovered himself and told it to a number who recovered also.

Charles F. Walker, the Sixth Street merchant, recovered himself and told it to several who recovered, among them being an old-school physician.

Edward Short of the San Francisco Call recovered, also three of his friends, viz: William Martin, Captain Hubbard of the Honolulu route, and William Hawkins of the U. S. Quartermaster's department, San Francisco.

John A. Phelps of the Hotel Kepler, San Francisco, and two of his friends, etc., etc.

The kidneys are the most important of the organs of the system. We can stand the excruciating pain of a kidney disease, but the interference becomes chronic (permanent) only when the kidneys are diseased. It is then called Bright's Disease and incurable. All kidney troubles develop out of a form about the 10th to 15th month. The above cases were incurable by all other known means. People having kidney diseases should give it first with the only thing that will cure it if it has reached the serious stage. Fulton's Compound for Bright's and Kidney Diseases, 211 Washington Street, San Francisco, sole compounders. Send for pamphlet. We are the sole agents for this city.

Save the Baby.

The mortality among babies during the three teething years is a large and frightful. The census of 1900 shows that about one in every seven succumb.

The cause is apparent. With baby's bones hardening, the fontanel (opening in the skull) closing up, and the teeth coming in, these coming at once create a demand for bone material that nearly half the little systems are deficient in. The result is leanness, weakness, sweating, fever, diarrhea, brain troubles, and other ailments that prove terribly fatal. The deaths in 1900 during these three years were 20,382, to say nothing of the vast number outside of the United States that were not reported, and this in the United States alone.

When baby begins to sweat, worry or cry out in sleep don't wait, and the need is either the medicine that will cure the little system is crying out for more bone material. Sweetman's Teething Food supplies the deficient system. It has saved thousands of babies. They begin to improve within forty-eight hours. Here is what physicians think of it.

254 Washington St., San Francisco, Cal., September 8, 1901.

Gentlemen—I am prescribing your food in the multitude of baby troubles due to imperfect dentition, a large percentage of infantile ill and fatalities are the result of teething. Your food supplies what the deficient system needs, and I have had surprising success with it. In scores of cases this diet, given at the first signs of teething, has not failed to check the infantile distress. Several of the most serious cases would, I think, have been fatal without it. It cannot be too quickly brought to the attention of the mothers of the country. It is an absolute necessity.

L. C. MENDEL, M. D.

San Francisco, Cal., September 1, 1901.

Dear Sirs—I have just tried the teething food in two cases and both it was successful. One was a very serious case, so critical that it was brought to the attention of the city for treatment. Fatal results were feared. In three days the baby ceased worrying and commenced eating and sleeping. I have had in this case was remarkable. I would advise you to put it in every drug store in this city. Yours,

I. M. PROCTOR, M. D.

ZERO AN ANCIENT TERM.

It Was in Use in Babylon Thirty-six Centuries Ago.

The term zero, which is used to designate a cipher and in meteorology the entire absence of heat in the atmosphere, was, according to a mathematical historian, Moritz Cantor, used by the Babylonians about the year 1700 B. C. This, however, is merely a supposition. It has not been definitely established that zero was in use any earlier than 400 A. D. About this time it was used in India, and several centuries later the Arabs began to employ it. Through the Arabs its use became known to Europeans during the twelfth century. It was not generally adopted in Europe until several centuries later, notwithstanding its great advantages. For a considerable time there were two parties among the European educators. One party, known as the algorists, favored the adoption of the Hindu system of notation (falsely called Arabic), with its position values, while the other, known as the abacists, favored the Roman notation, without zero or position values.

The general adoption of the Hindu system was greatly facilitated by the fact that it was explained in great detail by the calendars for more than a century, beginning with 1300, and that the medieval universities frequently offered courses devoted to the use of this notation. —Chicago Tribune.

Her Audience.

"How are you getting on with your music, my dear?" inquired a lady of her niece.

"Well, of course," replied the niece diffidently, "it wouldn't be proper of me to compliment myself, but some of the neighbors have told me they stayed awake at night for hours listening to my playing."

The Rule Served Him.

The new boarder had been three weeks in the house. "It is usual," said the landlady, with great delicacy, "for my boarders to pay as they go."

"Oh, that's all right," he replied affably. "I'm not going for a long time."

Sound Like It.

"What is that piece you are playing? Is it by Wagner?"

"No; the piano is out of tune."