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Tuesdays and Fridays
—BY—
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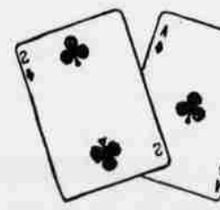

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The Romantic Tale of an American Professor's Downfall.

Led by the Wiles of an Aleutian Island Maiden to Forsake His Wife and Country—A Touching Story of Life in the North.

Maj. S. R. Nettleton, who was two years United States special treasury agent at the Pribylov islands, or Seal islands as they are sometimes called, was a close observer of the customs of the Aleutians, and relates many interesting anecdotes of his sojourn there, says the St. Louis Republic.

"In the far away Pribylov islands there is a little convent devoted to a nameless religion," said Maj. Nettleton. "It has only one occupant, whom the natives call Kehatka, the Aleutian nun. She worships no invisible divinity and has no theoretical doctrines, but she teaches her people that if they live honestly and relieve the sick and unfortunate they will be rewarded.

"Years ago, when the islands were the property of Russia, a Russian trader came to the islands to exchange his merchandise for sealskins and the fur of the silver gray fox. He fell in love with an Aleutian maiden, the belle of the island, and in the due course of time they were married. The trader and his dusky wife made many voyages between the island and Russian ports, but one day they were brought from their ship to one of the Alaska Commercial company's huts, both very ill with a terrible fever. With them were two little twin girls, whose exuberant health and spirits were a sad contrast to the condition of their parents. The next day their mother died. Her husband was at the point of death, but when his dying wife was brought to his bedside and asked him to give their children to her parents he feebly assented. When the funeral of his wife was taking place he too died, and the two little orphans were removed to the home of their grandmother.

"Their lives were uneventful until they reached the age of sixteen. Neither had been to school, and they knew nothing of the outside world, except what they remembered of the fairy tales told to amuse their childhood fancies. About this time the United States purchased Alaska and sent a young professor from one of the leading eastern universities to the island on a scientific expedition. The trip was an arduous one, and he left his young wife at home with her relatives. Securing the data and statistics for which he was sent in a few days, time hung heavily on his hands, and the young savant undertook the task of instructing the beautiful but illiterate sisters. Kehatka was an apt pupil, quaffing eagerly from the Pierian spring, but her sister, although quite as bright, seemed to be much more interested in her tutor than she was in her grammar or arithmetic. The attraction was mutual, and when a ship came on which the young professor might have returned home he wrote to his wife that he was unexpectedly detained and could not come home for another three months. The arrivals of ships at the islands were few and far between, and the next mail brought a letter imploring him to return home, as his wife was at the point of death. It so happened that one of the Alaska Commercial company's schooners was to sail for San Francisco the following day. The young professor resolutely went on board, bribing the boatmen to refuse to bring his Aleutian sweetheart to the schooner should she ask them to do so.

"The schooner lay fully a mile from the shore, and the sailors were already in the tall masts spreading the canvas preparatory to departure, when one of them caught sight of a woman swimming in the water. She came on board and implored the young man to abandon his idea of returning home, or to stay at least until the next ship. Her knowledge of English was limited, but as she knelt before him on the deck of the ship, her dark eyes pleading more eloquently than words, he decided to forsake his invalid wife and spend his days with his Aleutian love.

"He returned to the island and endeavored to forget the woman whom he had promised to love and cherish, who, lying at the dark portals of death, was longing for a parting kiss or a last embrace before she died. The mail which next reached the islands informed him that his wife was dead; that she died with his name on her lips, and that her last intelligible utterance was a hope that he would meet her in the better land.

"He read the letter and fell to the floor unconscious. Fully two months of faithful nursing saved him from dying of brain fever. When he was well enough to return home he married his Aleutian sweetheart. Kehatka, her sister, refused to leave the islands. During the epidemic of smallpox, which nearly depopulated the islands a few years ago, she was one of the very few who did not take the disease, although she was constantly at the bedside of the sufferers. The simple natives say that the Great Spirit refused to spoil her beauty, that she might shine as an angel of light among them and teach the road to the Aleutian heaven, where seals are plenty and it is never cold."

DEFINITION OF A TENOR.

Von Bulow Regarded Such a Singer as an Illness, Not a Man.

As a conductor he simply worked marvels, even with an indifferent orchestra, and this is the performance he perhaps enjoyed most; he would compare his conducting to his piano forte playing, and say at the end of a concert, provided he was satisfied: "This is the finest Bechstein I have played on," says the Saturday Review. Bulow at orchestra rehearsals was almost as interesting as Verdi, and operatic performances—Carmen, for instance—under his baton were the rarest treats a musician could enjoy. His connection with the operatic stage led him to the definition of a tenor, which it is difficult not to repeat: "Ein Tenor ist kein Mensch; es ist eine Krankheit. (A tenor is not a man; it is an illness.) And since an anecdote has been perpetrated room for another might be found.

It will be remembered how some two or three years ago the German emperor in the course of a speech referred rather rudely to the "grumblers" (Norgler) at the existing regime, and advised all such to shake off the dust of the Vaterland's soil. The speech created an unusual stir in all circles, and there was a large contingent of officials and others who took the hint and became known forthwith as Staubabschuttler. Bulow, who had always something to say or write, held his tongue this time, but at the first philharmonic concert he conducted in Berlin as he stepped on the platform he took out a very large handkerchief and in full view of the audience began to dust his shoes, just to show that he was not satisfied with the existing state of things.

He took it also musically out of Count Hochburg when that amiable despot had him turned out of the Berlin opera house. It was at a pianoforte recital at the Singacademie, where, by way of a prelude, Bulow just played the first few bars of Figaro's aria, "Se vuol ballare, Sig. Contino." Bulow's sarcastic vein found also an outlet in a composition of little merit, but one by which he, strangely enough, set great store, "Humoristische Quadrille aus Motiven der Oper Benvenuto Cellini von Berlioz," a mistake not easily explained in so serious an artist and due probably to a passing influence.

MILLET AND THE HARVESTERS.

The Artist Could Swing a Scythe with the Best of Them.

Pierre Millet, a younger brother of the painter of the "Angelus," describes the artist's life at Barbizon, in Century.

When it was harvest-time, he would often lead the way to the places where he hoped to see the harvesters at work. When we were at a little distance from them, he would stop. "See," he would say; "all their movements count. There is nothing done uselessly. Notice, too, how well the light strikes them and absorbs all the little details, till there remain only the stronger accents of shade which define here and there the luminous masses. The light of the plain is entirely different from that of the studio, where it enters only by a window. It is something of which a good many painters who never go out of Paris have no idea."

It sometimes happened that these harvesters would notice that we were observing them, and some of the band would say to the others: "See these Parisians who are looking at us. I should like to see them do our work. It is another thing to hold pencils, hey?"

Francois once said to them: "Ah, what you do is very difficult, is it not?"

"If you wish to try it, you will find out," replied one. "Here, take my scythe."

This did not disturb Francois. He took the scythe and began to cut the wheat with an ease and skill superior to theirs. They did not watch him long before they exclaimed: "Ah, monsieur, it is not the first time you have done this work! You do it better than we."

Continuing our walk, we came upon other objects of artistic interest. These were people binding the wheat into sheaves, and others loading the carts, and transporting the sheaves to the place where they were piling them in huge stacks. Francois watched this with great eagerness, saying to me: "See the grand movements of the men who lift the sheaves on their pitchforks, to give them to those who are on the stacks. It is astonishing, toward the approach of night, how grand everything on the plain appears, especially when we see figures thrown out against the sky. Then they look like giants."

A COSTLY PROCEEDING.

The Penalty of Asking for a Kiss in British Burmah.

The police court reports in the London papers sometimes quote the price of a kiss, which usually ranges from half a crown to half a sovereign, according to the temperament of the magistrate. How ridiculously cheap this is, says a writer in London Truth, will be seen from the following account of the cost of merely asking for a kiss, which has been sent to me from India:

"Probably you will hardly credit the story, but it is quite true, and, though the names are withheld by the Allahabad paper which gives the facts, the parties are well known. An officer of the Madras medical service was holding one of the most desirable civil surgeoncies in the province, and there he received a visit from a civilian and his wife. While driving with the lady in a dog-cart the doctor asked her for a kiss. It was very wrong, (especially as there was a native servant sitting behind the couple), and he met with the stern repulse which his impudence and imprudence invited. This exemplary woman afterward wrote to the doctor that she had told her husband of his conduct. The doctor then wrote an abject apology, which the husband submitted to the Madras government. Without being allowed to say a word on his own behalf, the doctor was forthwith officially advised to resign the service to avoid dismissal. Since then the Madras government has been induced to modify its decision. The offender is graciously permitted to serve the further nine months necessary to qualify him for the lowest scale of pension, but he has been transferred from his civil surgeoncy back to military service and packed off to a remote station in upper Burmah."

EASILY SATISFIED.

The Cole Object of a Minnesota Couple at the World's Fair.

At the world's fair it was amusing to note the diversity of objects which visitors found the most interesting. One young woman, who was busy writing in her note-book in the agricultural building, hurriedly ran over to a table and pushed to the front with so much zeal that the bystanders supposed she had forgotten her purse or something else equally important; but having scanned the table eagerly, she merely said: "O, yes, sugar beets," and ran away again to a sheltered place to write it down.

Another instance was that of an old couple, weary-looking and bundle-laden, who asked a guard where the Minnesota building could be found. He indicated the direction.

"Is it far?" asked the man.

"Yes, about half a mile from here."

"O dear! Well, come, Mary, we'll put her through now we're here," said the old man, shouldering his heavy bundle.

But the woman was more garrulous. She detained the guard long enough to explain that they lived in Minnesota twelve years and then moved to Ohio. Now they were going back to Minnesota.

"We was goin' through Chicago, so we jest stopped off two hours to see the fair. We don't keer much for fairs anyway; all we want to see is the Minnesota buildin', and we are bound to see that, if it takes half a day!"

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FUN FOR YOUNG JAPS.

How the Youngsters Ensnare Dragon Flies for Kites.

One of the greatest amusements for the children of Japan is catching the "dragon fly," said Dr. W. F. Taylor, of Boston, who, according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, has spent several years in Japan. Japan is a land of children, and thousands of them literally put in several weeks every autumn in capturing dragon flies and tying kites to them for the fun of seeing them fly. Soon after the turn of the sun in the afternoon hundreds and thousands of huge dragon flies busy themselves flying here and there over the rice fields and gardens, catching insects and gnats. The Japanese boys carefully saturate the end of a bamboo with tar and start out for the fun. They must hold the bamboo up to attract the unsuspecting dragons to take a rest. In a moment the boy gives the bamboo a twist, and puts the tar end into so many motions that it is impossible for the creature to avoid it. The boys are so expert at the business that I have seen them chase a fly that had gotten much ahead of them, and succeed in sticking the dragon fly to the reed. When once on the tar end of the pole there is a miserable future for the captives. They are tied together and carried around in the chase. Then a string is tied to each one, and a small piece of paper, serving as a kite, which the poor flies are required to sail. They fly away, but of course soon get caught in a tree or bush and die of starvation.

HOW TO HANDLE CAMELS.

The Obstinate Animals Must Be Humored or Humbugged.

Camels are not like horses, says the Ashton Reporter. If a horse does not want to do anything we make him. It a camel does not want to do anything he leaves it undone. No amount of coaxing, no amount of cruelty will make him budge. He has the determination of a mule combined with the strength of an elephant. A camel is one of those aggravating brutes which will drive a hot-tempered man to distraction. Nothing will persuade him to listen to reason. He will oppose your will with a passive resistance that is absolutely unconquerable. The only way to treat a camel is to humor if you cannot humbug him. They will often lie down if you load them with the proverbial last straw, and you might beat them to death or offer up all the pleasures of Paradise before they would get up. They are pig-headed beasts. Sometimes when they have quite a light load they turn nasty and throw themselves to the ground. But, although they are obstinate, they are not cute, and an Arab, by pretending to submit, can generally get the better of the stubborn beasts. The drivers will ostentatiously remove three or four packages from the load, and the animal, with an inward chuckle of satisfaction, rises at once, without perceiving that the parcels have meanwhile been returned to their former place. As he flatters himself he has shirked some of his duty he swings away with a light heart, gratified beyond measure, like a spoiled child, at having its own way. The camel is an unsociable beast. He is also habitually dull, except when he is sniffing the salt air of the desert. When he is treading the sands, with the burning sun on his back and the boundless waste before him, he feels himself at home. The immense heat makes him bubble over with pleasure and fills his frame with sublime intoxication. It has been stated on the best authority that he can go nine days without water. And if you had ever seen a camel drink water when he does get a chance of quenching his thirst you would not be surprised at this. They have been known to put away seven gallons and a half at a time.

HIS LEG WAS BROKEN.

But It Was a Wooden Leg and Didn't Hurt Him Seriously.

Police officers detailed in charge of postal wagons see more of the woes and ills of suffering humanity than most people. Late one night a short time ago a Chicago saloonkeeper called for the ambulance from the West Chicago avenue station, saying there was a man lying on the sidewalk near Carpenter and Front streets badly injured and unconscious. The unfortunate was bundled into the ambulance and landed in the examining room at the county hospital. On the way to the hospital the sufferer became partially conscious and indicated that his right leg was the cause of great discomfort. He could not speak English, but the officers understood that his right leg had been injured. In the examining room he made an extremely wry face when the physican approached, and it was then discovered he had been drinking heavily. The physician felt the man's right leg between the knee and ankle without drawing up the pantaloons or exposing the skin, and found the bone broken badly four or five inches above the ankle, and the patient was then removed to the operating room. Here a more complete examination was made, and it was learned the man's right leg was broken in the most terrible manner. When the patient saw the condition of his leg he actually shed tears. It was a wooden leg, and he was drunk and bemoaning the expense to be incurred in the purchase of another leg.

Lord Bowen, an English judge, was once tempted to sum up ironically. It was the case of a burglar who had been caught, having entered from the roof and taken the precaution to leave his boots on top. His defense was that he was in the habit of taking midnight strolls on the roofs of houses, and that he was tempted by curiosity to have a look at one of the interiors. Lord Bowen said, sarcastically: "If, gentlemen of the jury, you think it probable that the prisoner considered the roofs of the houses a salubrious place for an evening walk; if you suppose that the temptation to inspect the interior of the houses beneath him was the outcome of a natural and pardonable curiosity, in that case, of course, you will acquit him, and regard him as a thoughtful and considerate man, who would naturally remove his boots before entering the house, and take every precaution not to disturb his neighbors." To the judge's amazement, the jury took him at his word and acquitted the prisoner. Lord Bowen never attempted to joke with a jury again.

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