

BY FORCE OF CHEEK

By LAWRENCE ALFRED CLAY

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Col. Alexander Bluffington of the suburban village of Grantville, was a terror. He had been retired on half-pay, and he blamed the United States for not retaining him ten years longer. As the postmaster was the only representative of the United States at hand, the colonel made it a practice to go to the office once a day and tell him what he thought of his old government.

The colonel was a terror to such of his neighbors as kept a dog or chickens. He was a terror to the mayor and aldermen of the village. He would stand at his gate and shake his fist at speeding autoists; he would thunder at a tramp in a way to make the poor fellow wish he had perished in the California earthquake; he would insist on telling war stories to callers, and if they did not shiver he had no further use for them.

People used to whisper that they felt pity for the colonel's wife, and more than pity for his daughter, Miss Mamie, and yet, queerly enough, those were the only two people for miles around who were not afraid of him. He blustered around home, and almost daily threatened to discharge the cook, and to lead a riot against the United States and many other things, but neither wife nor daughter called on the neighbors to protect them. The daughter simply said nothing, while the wife stood it as long as possible and then mildly observed:

"Alexander, if you keep on storming around and talking so loud you will end by driving the cat from the house, and she is one of the best mousers we ever had."

Therefore the only fault to be found with the colonel and his bluff was the fact that he made young men afraid of him, and in so doing he kept them away from the house. There were half a dozen who would have



liked to call on Miss Mamie. Indeed, there were half a dozen who did call, but only once. When the colonel got through with them they were glad to find themselves out doors and still living. Many and many a time the daughter wondered to herself if there was not a young man somewhere in this world who had the nerve to stand up to her father, but the months passed away, and he came not.

The aforesaid young man was on the trail, however. His name was Kenneth Aldrich. He was a medical graduate. He opened an office in Grantville. He did it without consulting the colonel. He did it without caring two cents whether the colonel was at the battle of Bull Run or Waterloo.

One day at the postoffice a mutual acquaintance introduced Miss Mamie Bluffington and Dr. Kenneth Aldrich. When they separated he said to himself that there was the girl he was going to make his wife, and she wondered if he were the one to quiet her father's roars.

It was less than a month after the introduction, and the doctor had had opportunities to lift his hat and bow to the young lady several times, when Col. Alexander Bluffington went down to the postoffice one day to tell the postmaster that this republic could not possibly endure for another five years. The postmaster said he didn't care whether it could or couldn't, and the colonel said he would have him removed for a tory, and then started for home. On the way he encountered an automobile. He had never turned out for anything smaller than a horse, and he held the road this time. The result was that he was knocked down and rolled about in the most undignified way.

Dr. Aldrich was at hand to pick the colonel up and have him carried home. His leg and back and wrist were hurt. Even while the doctor was applying the bandages, the mighty man of war raised his wrathful voice and ordered him out. He wanted old Dr. Corwin; he didn't propose to be practised on by a young student! It was a case of cheek on the part of the young student to enter there. Dr. Aldrich finished his work and then said:

"Stop that roaring! Dr. Corwin won't come here. It's my case, and no other medical man will interfere. You are not badly hurt, but if you

go on roaring you will bring on fever. You ought to be arrested for not getting out of the way. There, there—no use to explode. I shall call again this evening."

"And you'll find the door locked against you!" exclaimed the purple-faced patient.

"Then I'll have you arrested for willful neglect of your injuries. There's a state law to cover your case."

Mother and daughter were not in the room, but were within hearing distance. When the doctor had departed the mother said:

"Wonderful young doctor, isn't he?"

"Yes, really wonderful."

"He seems to understand the case."

"Oh, yes, he seems to understand."

That evening, when the doctor called again Colonel Bluffington was ready for him. He had brought up reinforcements and meant fight. The door had not been locked, but the colonel was ready to say:

"Sir, I forbid you to touch me! If you do it will be assault and battery and you shall suffer."

The doctor continued to remove the bandages.

"I will prosecute you to the death!"

The doctor gently massaged the bruises and applied arnica.

"I have witnesses that I ordered you out of the house. You are assaulting a helpless man, sir!"

The bandages were deftly replaced, and the doctor said he was now quite sure that no bones had been broken.

"And the United States government shall be informed, sir—the United States government! If necessary, troops, will be sent here!"

"This powder," said the doctor, as he called in the ladies, "should be given every three hours. It is to guard against fever. I hope you will not have to sit up with him more than this one night."

"Wife—daughter, my army revolver!" demanded the colonel.

"His mind is wandering a little, but the powder will have a good effect. I will look in in the morning."

The colonel swore he wouldn't take the powder, but he did. He swore that he would be prepared to shoot next morning, but dropped to sleep like a lamb. He was looking puzzled and doubtful next morning when the doctor called, but he felt it his duty to record to bristle up and say:

"As soon as I get out of this you will get into jail!"

The doctor felt his pulse, made him run out his tongue, renewed the bandages and whistled softly to himself. Then he said:

"See here, colonel, I want to talk to you."

"I'll have a judge talking to you in a week or so!"

"All bluff! Drop it! I'm a young doctor, but I mean to be an old one some day. I'm not a beggar. I've got the money to see me through. I've met your daughter and am interested. I shall call here medically about three times more, and then I shall call socially. If it's a case of love, and I believe it will be, I shall become your son-in-law. Oh, you needn't get ready to roar. You can't beat destiny, and this is destiny. You've got to have a medical man in the family to guard you against apoplexy, and I want a father-in-law who can tell me war stories. That's all. Keep quiet today and no one need sit up with you tonight. Morning, colonel."

Three days later the colonel sat up in bed and told the doctor a war story. At the end of the week he told him two. At the end of three months, when Miss Mamie sought her mother one day and blushingly whispered a secret in her ear, the mother held up her hands and exclaimed:

"Didn't I tell you he was a wonderful doctor the very first day he came!"

"And—what father?" asked the girl.

"Oh, he won't roar. He's got all over that. It'll be so nice to have you live right along here with us!"

Preserving Ginger in China.

The United States buys practically all its preserved ginger from China, 500,000 pounds imported annually having an invoiced unit value of six and one-half cents, on which a duty of one cent a pound and 35 per cent ad valorem is levied. As one-half of the supply of preserved ginger comes from Hong Kong, the following report by Vice Consul General Stuart J. Fuller will be of interest:

"The preserving of ginger is entirely in the hands of the Chinese, and the ginger manufactured in Hong Kong is famous over the world. Tai Loong, Man Loong and Sun Sing operate the largest plants. The raw ginger is brought into the colony from the southern provinces of China, cleaned and soaked, and then mixed with sugar and boiled. After this it is kept in casks for a number of days until ready for packing. It is shipped in bulk in casks and also packed in jars, the latter being packed so many to the case or to the barrel. A similar mode of procedure is followed in preparing Chinese chow-chow, or preserved fruit with a ginger base; but in the case of the latter the fruit must be stoned as well as cleaned."

How He Knew.

Sanford—How did you find that your wife had returned home?

Parsons—By wire; I went into the house after dark and ran into one of her hatpins.

Long Ago.

It is generally suspected that every rich old bachelor has learned to say

GENERAL NEWS OF NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

ONE-CENT POSTAGE COMING

Hitchcock Sanguine in Light of Decrease in Postal Deficit.

Washington—With the postal deficit for the fiscal year, ended June 30 last, reduced \$1,500,000, Postmaster General Hitchcock now makes a prophecy of one-cent letter postage and a self-sustaining postal service. The compilation of the figures showing the reduction was completed recently at the Postoffice department.

The deficit of the previous fiscal year was \$17,600,000, so that in one year the deficit was reduced to \$6,100,000.

In commenting upon the saving of \$11,500,000 last year, Postmaster General Hitchcock said:

"This tremendous saving was made without curtailment of the postal facilities in any direction. On the contrary, there were many important extensions."

"The department's policy is to extend the service as rapidly as warranted by increasing population, and to accomplish its savings, not by the curtailment of postal facilities, but by handling in a more systematic manner the constantly expanding volume of mail."

The tables indicate that more than 1,500 new postoffices were established in the last fiscal year. Great extensions were made in the rural delivery system, 515 new routes, with a total mileage of 12,235, being put into operation.

There were appointed from the civil service list over 1,800 postoffice clerks to enlarge the working forces of city postoffices, and more than 1,000 additional letter carriers. The railway mail service was strengthened by the appointment of about 750 new employees.

The tables show also that the department made liberal increases in the compensation of old employees. Salaries of postoffice clerks were advanced in the aggregate \$1,750,000, while the aggregate salaries of letter carriers were increased \$1,226,000. Railway mail clerks received increases amounting to almost \$250,000.

Mr. Hitchcock explained that all increases in compensation were based upon a system of efficiency ratings adopted by the department a little more than a year ago. He says the system has had a highly beneficial effect on this service.

"This hearty co-operation," he said, "I expect to be continued through this and future years, with the result that we shall have a self-sustaining postal service and one-cent letter postage."

CENSUS INCREASE SHRINKS.

Cumulative Reports Show Gain of 14.9 Per Cent in Decade.

Washington—The census recapitulation bulletin issued Thursday gives the names of states and cities for which the census returns have been published up to October 20.

The states are Rhode Island, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Delaware, Vermont and Massachusetts. Their aggregate population was 10,898,272, an increase of 14.9 per cent as against an increase of 18.1 per cent during the decade previous.

Forty-three cities of more than 100,000 population and 159 cities of between 25,000 and 100,000 are given.

Commenting upon the facts presented, the bulletin says:

"With the data for both groups of cities approaching completeness, it is notable that the smaller cities as a group seemed to have maintained during the decade of 1900 to 1910 a rate of growth considerably above that maintained by the larger cities, the rate for the aggregate population of the smaller cities being 39.3 per cent and that for the larger 30.1."

"In the decade of 1890 to 1900 the increase of the smaller cities in the aggregate was 33.2 per cent and the larger 32.1 per cent."

"The returns for all of the cities which in 1900 were in the 100,000 and over class have been received, except from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minneapolis and Memphis. Seattle, Wash., which will go into the 100,000 and over class, had not reached that figure ten years ago."

Chinese Banks Get Loan.

Washington—Speculation in rubber, which aroused so much interest in London, extended to China and led to such a financial stringency in Shanghai that Chinese gold banks closed and business confidence was seriously impaired. Mr. Calhoun, the American minister to China, reports that at his request the Chinese foreign office authorized the viceroy of Shanghai to effect a loan of \$2,047,500 with an American banking corporation.

Rate Rehearing Refused.

Washington—A rehearing of the Missouri river rate cases was refused by the Supreme court of the United States. As a result the order of the Interstate Commerce commission reducing the class rates between Mississippi river crossings and Missouri river points on freight originating at Atlantic seaboard points, will go into effect.

Forest Fire Rewards Out.

Washington—Rewards have been offered by the secretary of agriculture for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons who through malice or carelessness set fires within the boundaries of national forests.

PEARY IS NOT AT WORK.

Ten Year's Leave of Absence From Navy Has Expired.

Washington—Although his absence has expired, Captain Robert E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, did not report for duty as a civil engineer in the navy. Acting Secretary Winthrop said that it had not yet been decided to what work Captain Peary would be assigned.

Captain Peary has been on leave of absence for ten years under an understanding that he was to devote his time to Arctic explorations. He has not applied for further extension, and it is assumed by the Navy department that he is now ready to return to active duty. He was recently promoted to the rank of captain through the retirement of a senior officer.

Department officials have unearthed old history in which the claim is made that the North Pole was discovered in 1360 by a friar of Oxford. It is called "A New Naval History, or Complete Review of the British Marine," and was published by John Entick in London, 1757. On one of its musty pages the following paragraph appears:

"In the year 1360 it is recorded that a friar of Oxford, called Nicholas De-Linna, of Lynn, being a good astronomer, went in company with others to the most northern island of the world, and there, leaving his company together, he traveled alone and made draughts of all those northern parts with the indrawing seas, which, at his return, he presented to the king of England. It is added that he went to the North Pole by his skill in magic, or the black art; but this magic black art may probably have been nothing more than a knowledge of the magnetical needle or compass, found out about 60 years before, though not in common use until many years later."

FOREST PROTECTION AIM.

Government Departments Will Give Matter Unusual Attention.

Washington—In view of the enormous damage done by forest fires during the past summer, the protection of forests will receive unusual attention from all government bureaus having to do with their control and management, and congress itself is likely to take a hand. In a letter he recently wrote to Governor Hay, of Washington, Secretary Ballinger made this observation:

"A subject of very great importance is the prevention and control of forest fires, both as relates to the public domain and to state lands; also to the protection of private interests. My observation has been that a large percentage of forest fires is the result of fires started by railroad locomotives passing over the Cascade mountains. In my travels this summer through California, I was impressed with the fact that railroads using oil fuel in their locomotives are free from criticism in this respect."

"I do not believe that the installation of spark-arresters will accomplish any beneficial result, but the railroads should be required to clean up their rights of way so as to prevent the recurrence of fires from this source, and until so prepared, should be compelled to maintain a sufficient patrol to extinguish fires set by locomotives, and also should be required to burn the slashings at seasonable periods under state supervision. The lumbering interests in our state ought to be keenly interested in progressive legislation along this line."

Heart Disease Toll Big.

Washington—Heart disease ranked second only to tuberculosis of the lungs as the principal cause of death in 1909 among the gainfully employed male persons in the United States death registration area, according to figures issued by the census offices.

The percentage of deaths caused by heart disease was 11.9, being highest among men employed in domestic and personal service, during age periods from 25 to 54, but between the latter age and 64 greater among men engaged in agricultural pursuits than in any other of the official five classes of occupations.

Taft Keeps Church Custom.

Washington—Bishop Cranston of the Methodist Episcopal church called at the White House to see the president about a report that the former practice of appointing as chaplains in the army and navy only those candidates formally approved and recommended by the governing bodies in their respective churches, was about to be abandoned. Mr. Taft assured the Bishop that he had no idea of abandoning this practice.

Fight Made for Values.

Washington—Secretary MacVeagh had a conference with Assistant Secretary Curtiss and Chairman Emery and James D. Reynolds, of the tariff board. Frederick Achenbach, the Treasury department's confidential agent at Berlin, also was present. The general subject of undervaluations was discussed. Mr. MacVeagh expects the tariff board to be his principal weapon in the fight for full valuations.

Colored Men for Federal Jobs.

Washington—President Taft has determined to appoint William H. Lewis, a negro, to be assistant attorney general of Hawaii, and Charles H. Cotterill, also colored, to be collector of customs at Honolulu, according to information at the White House. Cotterill is now assistant district attorney at Boston.

BACON REACHES RECORD PRICE

Corn is Cheaper, But Packers Say They Can't Get Hogs.

Chicago—In the face of a steady decline in the price of hogs and the corn on which they are fed, Chicagoans who desired to eat bacon discovered that they were compelled to pay the highest prices ever obtained for the salt meats in times of peace—35 cents a pound sliced.

If the housewife was willing to cut it up herself she might have this figure reduced to three pounds for \$1, but that was the best she could do. It was up, and to all appearances would stay at this record-smashing figure for some months.

For a number of mysterious reasons that still are unexplained, the forces that usually result in hammering the price of bacon down seemed to have an opposite effect upon the food.

The packers insisted that they could not get enough hogs to supply the demand; that they were losing money because the porkers were not being received at the stockyards.

However, the market report showed that the demand for live hogs was weak and that they were left standing in the pens daily. It showed also that the prices are now much lower for the live hog than six months and a year ago, when no retailer would have considered asking 35 cents for a pound of bacon.

The average price paid for hogs at the stockyards was \$8.49 per hundred, as against an average of slightly more than \$10 six months ago. Market reports for a year ago show that from 10 to 25 cents per 100 pounds more was paid for porkers than is being paid by the packers now.

Corn, the pork producing cereal, also has been falling consistently but without any effect on the price of the finished product.

SWEETHEARTS OF '65 WED.

Woman's Psychic "Hunch" Results in Finding of Playmate.

Los Angeles, Cal.—There months ago Mrs. L. A. Robinson, a prominent local club woman and long a widow, began to think deeply of F. J. Fordham, sweetheart of her girlhood, and of whom she had not heard for 45 years. The thought brought an intense longing to see him, and of the wish was born a "hunch" that she could find him by going to Brooklyn. She went. The result was an almost unexampled romance.

The second day after she reached the eastern city Mrs. Robinson met her first love, now an old man, on the street, and they instinctively recognized each other.

Precisely as in her case, life had brought and death had taken the mate of Fordham leaving him free and his memory had been bringing up visions of the woman he had adored as a little girl. Now the announcement is received here that they will be married in Brooklyn in December at the home of Mrs. Robinson's daughter.

ALEUTS NEARING EXTINCTION

White Plague, Also Measles and Pneumonia, Killing Them.

Port Townsend, Wash.—The natives of the Aleutian islands are threatened with extinction because of the ravages of tuberculosis, measles and pneumonia, according to a report brought by the revenue cutter Tahoma, flagship of the Behring sea seal patrol fleet. Captain J. H. Quinlan, of the cutter, declares that remedial action is imperative.

Captain Quinlan advocates the assembling of all the tribes and clans, now scattered in isolated camps, at some point where they may receive medical supervision. He says conditions in the archipelago are pathetic. The natives would undoubtedly resist concentration, still they witness helplessly the extinction of their race. The Aleutians are famous for the beauty of the baskets which they weave from grasses.

The Tahoma will make a report to the National Geographic society on the new eruption of Mount Bogoslov. Castle Rock, one of the largest of the Bogoslov islands, was greatly reduced in size during the year. Perry island, which disappeared in an eruption two years ago, has reappeared and a new island has been thrown up. The new island freak has been named Tahoma.

Will Leaves Prospects.

Boston—Believing herself a beneficiary to the extent of some million dollars in the will of a rich man in New York, whose name is not disclosed, Miss Cora Johnson, who died here a few days ago, left a will disposing of such property, although being possessed herself of only \$100 at her death. Miss Johnson, of whom little is known, made several public bequests of \$500 each to hospitals and homes, and leaves \$500,000 in trust for the benefit of Charles Edward Holbrook, son of H. W. Holbrook, Newton, Mass.

Tack in Skull Eye Cure.

Atlanta, Ga.—William Williams, a negro, is in jail here charged with swindling, on account of the peculiar cure for blindness which he devised. His remedy consisted in driving a tack into the back portion of a blind negro's skull and charging \$2.50 for the operation. Robert Ward, the victim, told the police judge that the tack process was not very painful, but that Williams' manner of taking the \$2.50 "hurt considerable."

Election Night to Be Dry.

New York—Election night will be dry after the regular closing hours. More than 200 applications for all-night licenses to hotels and restaurants were refused by Mayor Gaynor.

AERONAUTS FOUND

Occupants of America II Land in Wild Canadian Forest.

Traveled 1,350 Miles, Making New World's Record for Sustained Flight and Distance.

New York, Oct. 27.—Alan R. Hawley and Augustus Post, the aeronauts of the balloon America II, for whom search had been prosecuted in the Canadian wilds, are safe and have established a new world's record for sustained flight. They traveled approximately 1,350 miles, and came to earth in Chicoutimi county, Quebec, on Wednesday, October 19, but were not heard from until today, when telegrams sent from St. Ambroise, Quebec, reached New York.

The balloonists started from St. Louis with nine other contestants in the international contests on Monday, October 17. All the other balloons have been reported.

Two messages from Hawley and Post were received in New York early today. One was to William Hawley, brother of the aeronaut; the other to Samuel F. Perkins, pilot of the balloon Dusseldorf II, which until tonight had been considered the winner. The message to Mr. Hawley read:

"Landed in wilderness week ago, 50 miles north of Chicoutimi. Both well. Alan."

The Perkins message read:

"Landed Paribonka river, north Lake Chiloga, 19th. All well; returning. Hawley and Post."

With receipt of the news, there ended a search which had come to be regarded by many as almost hopeless and in which the government of this country and Canada were indirectly participating.

WORK TRAIN KILLS FIVE ON UNITED RAILWAYS

Portland, Oct. 27.—Plunging down the steep grade on the west slope of Tualatin hill, a construction car on the Burlington extension of the United Railway, at 6 o'clock yesterday evening, collided with a flat car, killing five Greek workmen, injuring 25 others and merely hurting slightly the only woman among the 35 persons on the car and her two children. Three of the injured will die. A. L. Ryan, the conductor on the work train, and C. C. Pruitt, the brakeman, are among the injured. Ryan may be hurt fatally.

\$2,000,000 FIRE AT VICTORIA.

Whole Block Destroyed, Waterfront Threatened, Phones All Out.

Victoria, B. C.—Oct 27.—Driven by a high wind, fire tonight threatens the entire business section of the city. Several prominent buildings in the heart of the city have already been destroyed and many others, it is feared, will go.

The Five Sisters' block, one of the largest office buildings in the city, standing on the corner of Fort and Government streets, was completely wiped out. The telephone service has been given up, the poles which lead out of the central office, across the road from the burning section, having been burned down. Several yachts in the harbor are burning, the huge sparks which blew over into the harbor igniting them.

The entire force of the local militia and the garrison from Esquimalt has been brought to the city and the soldiers are assisting the firemen in fighting the flames and the police in keeping the crowds in order.

At 1:30 a. m. all hope of saving the Times building had been abandoned. The greater portion of the block bounded by Government, Fort and Broad streets and Tronace alley has been wiped out. The loss, it is now estimated, will approach \$2,000,000.

Tidal Wave Brings Death.

Tampa, Fla.—Further details of last week's hurricane ravages in a portion of the Everglades and "Ten Thousand Islands" section of Southern Florida indicate that many square miles were inundated by a tidal wave of tremendous force. The captain of the Everglades schooner Eureka said that the tide at one period of the storm rose 12 feet in one hour. This rush in many cases swept inhabited points bare, depositing in inaccessible swamps houses, household goods and food supplies. Cabins were carried out to sea.

Nuncio is Optimistic.

Rome—Monsignor Tomiti, the papal nuncio at Lisbon, who recently returned to Rome, had a long conference with Cardinal Merry del Val, the papal secretary. He discussed with the secretary the report received by the Vatican concerning events in Portugal. Monsignor Tomiti expressed the hope that after public feeling engendered by the revolution had subsided satisfactory arrangements might be made with the new government.

Dynamite Wrecks Home.

Cheyenne, Wyo.—An attempt was made to blow up the house of Alderman Albert Thomas in the town of Hartville, near here. Dynamite placed at the rear door shattered the porch, windows and furniture, but Alderman Thomas, his wife and child were uninjured.