

"CECIL OF WOODS"

A Snowbound Nightingale
Sings by Wira.

By EDGAR WHITE.

The snow had fallen steadily all the day, weaving garments of white for the undulating earth. As twilight came on the little train, in spite of the tremendous puffing of its engine, settled down to a walk. Men of the crew rushed backward and forward through the aisles, looking anxious. The country seemed a wilderness; deep ravines, dense forests, frowning cliffs and rugged mountains.

The lamps were lighted and "The Faust Opera" troupers in the rear coach began to sing. All day their spirits had fallen with the snow. A failure to reach the junction meant Christmas Day in the wilds, a most distressing thing after the eagerly looked-for reunion with the folks at home. So they tried to sing the blues away. But it was no use. The songs died mournfully. Suddenly the engine stopped. A brakeman, lantern in hand, entered from the rear.

"Where are we?" asked the tall thin manager of the show company.

"Frog Island Crossing," said the brakeman tersely. "The road's blocked."

Idly they watched the brakeman and another man working outside with a line to connect the telephone wire with an instrument in the car. This meant they were going to call up the nearest telegraph office so the man there might notify the superintendent to send the snow plow and men; relief was far away.

It was ascertained that the nearest help was seventy miles down the line, and that the snow plows could hardly hope to reach the train before morning. As it was still snowing heavily even this calculation might be overly optimistic.

The conductor found a farm house, and returned with baskets of delicious turkey, chicken, light bread and preserves. There were tankards of coffee, and cans of real cream. How the old world troubles fell under the gracious influence of that homely country fare forged out of the storm. And how the actors ate! It was a repast unsurpassed along the length and breadth of the Great White Way. Song birds chattered and laughed with farmers and country merchants. They swapped yarns, cracked jokes and became jolly good fellows all. Finally, their hunger appeased, Mephisto and Marguerite arose and started a song.

"If you people don't mind my buttin' in, would you jist wait a minute?"

The unexpected remark came from the farmer who had come in with the food, and was waiting to take the empty baskets back over the white hills. He had been standing at the end of the car, deferentially waiting for his guests to get through. The travelers instantly divined, or thought they did, what he wanted, and began reaching into their pockets. The farmer shook his head.

"Tain't that," he said; "you're welcome to the grub; glad you liked it. But I was thinking being as you people sing, maybe you wouldn't mind givin' some folks out in the country a bit of a treat. That's people connected with this telephone in the car here what never saw a real show in all their lives—their sick people on that line that—"

"Nough said, my friend," said Mephisto, his eyes lighting up with the idea; "you get busy now calling up everybody on that line. This is Christmas Eve—maybe there's trees at some of the school houses—call 'em up if they have phones—don't leave anybody out." Then turning to the actors: "All you sweet singers of us—er—Michigan walk up to the end of the car. Now, ladies and gentlemen, our good farmer friend has made connections with our country cousins; the curtain may rise!"

When the actors arose to obey, a lady with chestnut curls and blue eyes, who took the rather inconsequential part of Bessy, started to join them. Marguerite of the sun-kissed hair observed Bessy, and said, sweetly:

"He didn't call for the maids-in-waiting."

The gentle Bessy, wounded to the quick, stepped back, the stately Marguerite sweeping by. It was mostly before the footlights that Marguerite's injured innocence and meekness glowed.

After a brief discussion of the selections to be given the performers removed the lid from their melody. As one finished he would step from the phone and the following would take his place. It was a fine performance, as all were old, experienced singers, and each did his level best.

When the singers had finished as much of the piece as it was practical to give over the wire there came a "Ting-a-ling-ling-ling!"

A singer stepped to the phone.

"Is this the train where the sweet music comes from?" asked a girlish voice.

"Yes—this is the Faust Concert company you have been listening to."

"I think it is perfectly lovely."

"Thank you, Miss. Will you give me your name so I can tell my comrades?"

"Cecil of the Woods" they call me. We live in a little cabin up the mountain side. Oh, it is so cold and desolate here, and no friends for the longest distance!"

"Dear me! That's too bad. I wish you were nearer so you might come and see us."

"So do I. Then I would sing for you."

Mephisto turned from the instrument, grinning.

"There's a kid girl back in the woods who thinks she can sing," he said to Faust and Marguerite. "I'm going to let her blow off—then you folks can hear, too. (Then putting his mouth to the phone.) I would be delighted to hear you. Can't you sing over the phone?"

"I—I—I—you won't laugh at me?" said the gentle voice, tremulously.

"Sure not! Nobody will hear you but me."

"What shall it be—a Christmas carol?"

"Yes, yes—anything."

Those watching Mephisto noticed his brows knit; then his eyes lighted up and an eager expression swept over his audacious face.

The song at the other end finished, Mephisto thus spoke to the singer:

"Little girl, I don't know you, but let me tell you you've got talent—oceans of it! I want you to sing that to a friend of mine, Miss Hastings, who plays Marguerite."

Marguerite, with a satirical smile, took Mephisto's place at the phone. Out of the depths of the snow floated the gentle voice of "Cecil of the Woods:"

"Over the blue depths of Galilee
There comes a holier calm,
And Sharon waves, in solemn praise,
Her silent groves of palm."

"Glory to God! The sounding skies
Loud with their anthems ring,
Peace to the earth, good will to men,
From Heaven's Eternal King!"

Welling out of the blackness of the night, from some unknown spot in that vast, mysterious wilderness, the tender, well-modulated voice struck deep into the heart of the woman of the stage. There were the signs of rain in her eyes as she released the receiver and turned to her companions.

"That girl is best where she is," said Marguerite, "but think what that voice would be with a little training."

"Wouldn't it?" cried Mephisto, enthusiastically, again going to the phone. "That's a prize if we can get her." (In the instrument:) "Hello!"

"Yes, sir," replied the voice of Cecil of the Woods.

"How would you like to train to travel with a great opera company like ours?"

"Oh, sir—I fear you are laughing at me," with an expression of pain.

"Never more in earnest in my life," protested Mephisto. "We're snowbound for tonight and maybe all day tomorrow, but I will leave the ad dress with one of the railroad men and means for you to meet us in the city during the holidays, and then we'll talk things over. You'll be playing Marguerite yourself inside of a year, and will be famous."

This terminated the interview, and Mephisto hunted up Jim the electrician, and instructed him about a further dispatch to the paper concerning his remarkable find.

"By George!" he said, "Our Luck's with us in spite of this infernal snow. Who'd a thought of striking a prize songbird in this bleak region—and while snow-bound, too! Facts beat fiction every time."

Jim went into the forward car to write up the newest developments of the snow-bound troupe, under the inspiration of a cigar furnished by Mephisto, who followed to suggest interesting details. As he passed into the car ahead Mephisto noticed Bessy of the chestnut hair curled up in a seat, "sound asleep." Nailed to the corner of the car near her was a telephone, the same as in the rear car. A horrible suspicion swept over the manager, and he glared about with glassy eyes. Seeing a brakeman snoozing in a seat, with his lantern beside him, Mephisto seized it and ran outside. Holding the light up near the corner of the car he observed a thread-like strand reaching from the ventilator off into the darkness.

Then he re-entered the car, and wearily walked up to where Jim was traveling with his press dispatch saying: "Since thinking the thing the thing over, Jim, you needn't send off that last chapter. It's too good for them muckraking newspapers any how."

Advertising in China.

Tradesmen in China have quite as high appreciation of the value of advertising as any other people in the world. In China the biscuits bear the imprint of the baker, and ducks bought in the Celestial markets frequently show on their backs a big red stamp bearing the name of the seller.

Chinese shops have large signboards which show an odd mixture of the poetic and the commercial traits of the people. Here are a few examples:

"Shop of Heaven-sent Luck," "Tea Shop of Celestial Principles," "The Nine Felicities Prolonged," "Mutton Chop of Morning Twilight," "The Ten Virtues All Complete," "Flowers Rise to the Milky Way."

A charcoal shop in Canton calls it self the "Fountain of Beauty," and a place for the sale of coal indulges in the title of "Heavenly Embroidery."

An oil and wine establishment is the "Neighborhood of Chief Beauty," and "The Honest Pen Shop of Li" implies that some pen shops are not honest.—New York Sun.

A Sordid Husband.

"Where are you off to now?"

"To my Shakespeare club, hubby."

"What good has your Shakespeare club done you?"

"Why, I have learned all about the plays."

"Bah!" snarled her husband. "I thought surely you'd get chummy with some woman who owned a big automobile."

EMPEROR'S FUNERAL BEGINS.

Ancient and Modern Rites and Customs Mingle at Tokio.

Tokio—Funeral ceremonies of the late Emperor Mutsuhito, of Japan, posthumously known as "the Emperor of the Era of the Enlightenment," began amid surroundings in which century-old rites and customs were mingled with modern military display.

From the most extreme points of Japan subjects have been assembling in Tokio. At midnight great crowds had gathered along the route of the procession.

The weather was fair. A police cordon was established, shutting off the streets through which the body of the emperor will be transported and upon which it is estimated half million persons will be accommodated. Soon after midnight officials proceeded to the palace in preparation for the early ceremony.

The sombre coloring associated with Western mourning was almost entirely absent, being replaced by the brilliant hues of the Orient.

Official representatives of every country had come to Tokio to participate in the solemnities. Among them were princes representing reigning houses and special embassies commissioned by republican presidents. The list included Philander C. Knox, secretary of state of the United States, who was accompanied by Ransford E. Miller, chief of the Far Eastern section of the State department at Washington; Rear Admiral Alfred Reynolds and Brigadier General John J. Pershing. Members of the regular foreign diplomatic body were present in their uniforms.

From an early hour the palace in its great private park in the heart of the capital was the goal toward which virtually everybody in Tokio made his way on foot. The late emperor only occasionally during his life left the moated inclosure where his body had laid in state since August 13. Since that date on each tenth day, solemn memorial services and sacrifices to the spirit of the departed ruler were performed.

The casket containing the body lay in state in the main hall. It had been decorated according to Shinto rites by a special corps of ritualists.

The casket measured nearly ten feet by five and weighed one and a half tons.

The chief ritualist and his assistants proffered the offerings of sacred food to the continued accompaniment of shinto music, after which other offerings of red and white cloth inclosed in willow boxes were made. Prayers for the dead were recited by the chief ritualist.

The most solemn act of all followed when the emperor, the empress, the dowager empress and the princes and princesses advanced toward the casket and worshipped the spirit of the departed emperor. A short silence ensued; the processions were reformed and the members of the imperial family retired.

The other members of the assemblage however, remained to worship the dead emperor's spirit, after which the Shinto ritualists advanced to the altar and removed the offering to the front of sacred music. The screen in front of the catafalque was lowered by the chief ritualist and the first ceremony of the funeral was ended.

Young Emperor Reads Address of Lamentation at Funeral.

Aoyama—Both the emperor and the people of Japan paid homage to the memory of Emperor Mutsuhito at the funeral hall at Aoyama.

In front of the great casket the young emperor read an address of lamentation, in which he referred to the events in the life of his great father. Then in behalf of the people of Japan, the premier, Marquis Saionji, delivered a patriotic address and was followed by the minister of the household, who spoke for the dead emperor's attendants. The hall was crowded with thousands of high dignitaries, among whom were sprinkled a considerable number of foreigners.

When the great procession accompanying the body from the imperial palace in Tokio arrived at the entrance to the grounds of the palace at Aoyama, ten huge gas lanterns were lighted. Ritualists then arranged white curtains at the back and side of the bier and a half-drawn blind in front. While the preparations were in progress the emperor and the other members of the imperial family waited in a resting room.

The ritualistic ceremonies then began, the chief ritualist reciting a prayer, which was followed by a mournful Shinto hymn, chanted to the accompaniment of sacred instruments.

Sulphur Cargo on Fire.

San Francisco—Fire which broke out suddenly in the hold of the British steamer Fitzclarene at the Green street wharf, threatens to destroy 1000 tons of Japanese sulphur in her cargo. The Fitzclarene, Captain J. H. Blair, arrived with coal for this port and sulphur for Portland, Or., from Muroran, Japan. If the sulphur is destroyed the loss will be between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Water from five tugs and several fire engines was turned into the hold without appreciable effect.

'Mikado' Given Up for Day.

London—At the suggestion of the Lord Chamberlain, the opera "Mikado" was not played at any theater in Great Britain Saturday, the day of the Japanese emperor's funeral. Immediately after the colors were hoisted at the mastsheads of the British warships in home and foreign waters they were half-masted in memory of the late emperor. The flags over the government offices and on many business houses likewise were lowered.

Negro Is Made Major.

Washington, D.C.—Captain Charles Young, of the Ninth United States cavalry, the only negro army officer graduated from West Point, has been promoted to the rank of major. It is said no other negro has attained that rank in the regular army. Young is now military attache to Liberia, and is organizing the army of that republic.

Log Rates Will Advance.

Astoria, Or.—The local logging camps have notified their customers that on October 1, the price of logs will be advanced \$1 a thousand feet above the grade rates that have been in force for some time. The action follows a similar raise made by the upper river mills and that became effective on September 1.

DEATH TRIBUTE TO DEAD RULER

General Nogi and Wife Die True to Ancient Custom.

Both Commit Suicide in Honor of Japan's Dead Emperor—All Preparations Carefully Made.

Tokio—General Count Maresuke Nogi, supreme military councillor of the empire, and his wife, the Countess Nogi, committed suicide in accordance with the ancient Japanese custom, as a final tribute to their departed emperor and friend, Mutsuhito. The death by their own hands of the famous general and his wife was as dramatic as it was sad. The general cut his throat with a short sword and the countess committed hara-kari.

Following the Samurai custom, the couple had carefully prepared their plans for killing themselves and timed them so that they would be coincident with the departure forever from Tokio of the dead emperor.

General Nogi and the countess had attended the funeral services of Mutsuhito at the palace, and it was expected they would proceed to Aoyama with the funeral cortege. Instead, however, at the conclusion of the ceremony at the palace they withdrew to their modest home in Akasaka, a suburb of Tokio, and there began their final preparations for death.

First, the general wrote a letter to his new emperor, Yoshihito, which later was found beside the body. Then he draped in mourning a portrait on the wall of the late emperor, and afterward he and his wife dressed themselves in full Japanese costume and drank a farewell cup of sake from cups which had been presented to them by Mutsuhito.

Darkness had fallen and General Nogi and the countess sat and awaited the signal they had agreed upon to announce their leave-taking. This was the booming of a single gun in the palace grounds at Tokio, which was to let the people know that the body of the emperor was starting on the funeral car for its last resting place.

As the boom of the gun resounded through the clear, still night, General Nogi arose, and, grasping in his hand a short sword, plunged it into his throat, while the countess stabbed herself through the body. A student who resided in the Nogi home heard the fall of the bodies and rushed into the room.

JAPAN PAYS TRIBUTE.

Young Emperor Reads Address of Lamentation at Funeral.

Aoyama—Both the emperor and the people of Japan paid homage to the memory of Emperor Mutsuhito at the funeral hall at Aoyama.

In front of the great casket the young emperor read an address of lamentation, in which he referred to the events in the life of his great father. Then in behalf of the people of Japan, the premier, Marquis Saionji, delivered a patriotic address and was followed by the minister of the household, who spoke for the dead emperor's attendants. The hall was crowded with thousands of high dignitaries, among whom were sprinkled a considerable number of foreigners.

When the great procession accompanying the body from the imperial palace in Tokio arrived at the entrance to the grounds of the palace at Aoyama, ten huge gas lanterns were lighted. Ritualists then arranged white curtains at the back and side of the bier and a half-drawn blind in front. While the preparations were in progress the emperor and the other members of the imperial family waited in a resting room.

The ritualistic ceremonies then began, the chief ritualist reciting a prayer, which was followed by a mournful Shinto hymn, chanted to the accompaniment of sacred instruments.

Sulphur Cargo on Fire.

San Francisco—Fire which broke out suddenly in the hold of the British steamer Fitzclarene at the Green street wharf, threatens to destroy 1000 tons of Japanese sulphur in her cargo. The Fitzclarene, Captain J. H. Blair, arrived with coal for this port and sulphur for Portland, Or., from Muroran, Japan. If the sulphur is destroyed the loss will be between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Water from five tugs and several fire engines was turned into the hold without appreciable effect.

'Mikado' Given Up for Day.

London—At the suggestion of the Lord Chamberlain, the opera "Mikado" was not played at any theater in Great Britain Saturday, the day of the Japanese emperor's funeral. Immediately after the colors were hoisted at the mastsheads of the British warships in home and foreign waters they were half-masted in memory of the late emperor. The flags over the government offices and on many business houses likewise were lowered.

Negro Is Made Major.

Washington, D.C.—Captain Charles Young, of the Ninth United States cavalry, the only negro army officer graduated from West Point, has been promoted to the rank of major. It is said no other negro has attained that rank in the regular army. Young is now military attache to Liberia, and is organizing the army of that republic.

Log Rates Will Advance.

Astoria, Or.—The local logging camps have notified their customers that on October 1, the price of logs will be advanced \$1 a thousand feet above the grade rates that have been in force for some time. The action follows a similar raise made by the upper river mills and that became effective on September 1.

APATHY IN WASHINGTON.

Governor Hay Renominated Without Opposition—Vote Light.

Seattle—The statewide primaries were marked by apathy. The Seattle newspapers made elaborate arrangements to display election returns, but only a handful of people gathered. Governor Marion E. Hay, Republican, was nominated without any real opposition.

In the First, or Seattle congress district, Representative Will E. Humphrey was similarly renominated. For congressman-at-large Frank Hammond and J. E. Frost are leading in Seattle, but it is asserted that Hammond will run behind Henry B. Dewey elsewhere.

For state insurance commissioner, John H. Shively, against whom a bitter personal fight was made, ran far behind State Senator H. O. Fishback in King county and throughout the state.

On the Democratic side no illuminative figures on the governorship are obtainable, except that King county scattering returns show that Elmer C. Million, Democrat, is not running so well as was expected. Charles G. Heifner, Democrat, seems to have won the congress nomination in the First district over Thomas R. Horner.

Supreme Justices Ralph O. Dunbar, Overton G. Ellis and Wallace Mount were renominated unopposed.

For attorney-general, W. V. Tanner, Republican, is renominated almost unanimously.

In the first, or Seattle, district, 20 King county precincts give Heifner, Democrat, for congress, 294; Horner, 96. Heifner's nomination is conceded. Eighteen precincts in King county for congressman-at-large give Frost 211, Hammond 161. Returns from various parts of the state indicate the nomination of Frost for one of the two seats.

There was only one Socialist candidate for each office.

The Socialist ticket, headed by Miss Anna Maley, for governor, was nominated by a mail referendum two months ago, but under the state law the candidates were obliged to go on the primary ballot.

REBELS WELL FED.

Salazar's Men Live Off Ranchers As They Travel.

Douglas, Ariz.—With his 400 followers living on the fat of the land, Inez Salazar, the rebel general, is moving slowly to the west along the international boundary. He is closely watched by United States cavalrymen, who are following the rebel movements from the American side of the line.

Salazar and his men remain at a ranch until all the choicest cattle and provisions are consumed and then move a few miles west. They are slowly nearing Augua Prieta, the Mexican town just opposite Douglas.

At last reports to United States army officers here, Salazar's command camped on the Mescal ranch, 25 miles east of Augua Prieta, where the federal garrison was strengthened by the arrival of 100 soldiers from the South. This makes the garrison number 300 men, but Salazar's force may be strengthened at any time by the many groups of from 200 to 400 rebels operating in the vicinity.

RELICS ARE SAVED.

General Sickles Not Forced to Part With War Trophies.

New York—General Daniel E. Sickles will not be obliged to part with his relics of the Civil war, which were to have been sold at auction to satisfy a judgment of \$200 held by the Lincoln Trust company. Daniel P. Hayes, the general's lawyer, announced that money to satisfy the judgment had been raised and that the case would be settled.

The relics included commissions of the general, many of them signed by Abraham Lincoln, medals won by the general in the war and at Gettysburg, where he lost his leg, letters from men prominent in the affairs of the Union and swords used in famous battles.

Valley Crops One-Half In.

Salem, Or.—The continued bad weather has damaged grain in the shock about 10 per cent. Hops have molded considerably, and possibly there will be loss of 15 per cent. The prunes are undamaged, with only a fair crop on the trees, as the frost caught some of them early in the spring. The foregoing refers only to the unharvested portion of the crops. At least one-half of hops are harvested, and grain one-half in the bin, and we think more. Barley is off color, and will not be used for brewing.

Rain Increases Potato Crop.

Cornelius, Or.—The following figures are as near as it is possible to judge at present: Potatoes, bumper crop, increased by rain probably 10 per cent; wheat, average crop, damaged by rain probably 10 per cent; oats, average crop, one-half damaged by rain, one-half not damaged; hay, average crop, damage for entire season, 35 per cent; hops, heavy crop, damaged at present 10 per cent. The potato crop is the largest known.

Famine Threatened in Siam.

Eugene, Or.—A letter from C. A. Steele, a newspaperman at Bangkok, Siam, says that there is grave danger of a famine in that country. There has been little rain fall for two years, and the exportation of rice has practically ceased.

TIME LIMIT IS GIVEN MADERO

Must Protect Americans and Property or Resign.

Failure to Meet Ultimatum of United States Will Be Followed By Immediate Intervention.

Washington, D.C.—President Taft has given President Madero 30 days in which to protect American property and lives in Mexico. If Madero fails to do this the United States will require that he resign immediately. If Madero should refuse to resign intervention will follow speedily.

This statement was made here Thursday by a high official of the Department of State to Juan Pedro Didapp, representative of the Mexican revolution in Washington.

The name of the official is withheld, but full credence is given the statement here, in view of recent events in the Mexican situation.

Don Manuel Calero, Mexican ambassador here, hurriedly left Washington last week for Mexico City, bearing a personal message from President Taft to President Madero. It is believed the message he took from the administration to Madero was of the tenor described. Diplomats say that Calero would not have made a personal trip from Washington all the way to Mexico City unless the issue was extraordinarily urgent.

Developments this week showing the strong exertions of the Madero administration to get troops to Northern Mexico to protect American interests, which quickly followed Calero's arrival in Mexico City, also lend weight to the reported threat of the United States.

Officials at the State department were reticent when questioned concerning this development in the Mexican situation. It was intimated that the administration intends to force Madero to protect foreign interests in the republic, but none would discuss the report that this government plans to compel the Mexican president to resign if he fails to get a better grasp on affairs along the Rio Grande.

EMERGENCY VESSEL READY.

Three Troopships at Fort Mason Have Steamed Up for Rush Trip.

San Francisco—For the past few days there has been unusual activity on board the army transports Crook and Buford, which, with the troopship Sheridan, are tied up at the transport docks at Fort Mason. There is steam up in all three ships and they would be ready for sea in an hour, should the Mexican situation require the sending of troops South.

While the authorities in charge of the transports deny any authorization to arrange for movements of troops toward the Mexican border, the fact remains that the transports are ready for any emergency.

Gold Ship May Be Raised.

Ellensburg, Wash.—"Uncle Joe" Morrell, of Ellensburg, sole remaining survivor of the ship Golden Gate, which burned and sank off Manzanillo, Mexico, in 1864 with more than \$2,000,000 in California gold on board, has received a letter from a San Francisco syndicate asking certain details of the wreck and bearings of the spot where the ship sank. Morrell is promised a liberal share of the gold in return for his information, should the expedition prove successful.

Turks Capture Airship.

Tripoli—The Turks, who on several occasions have tried vainly to smuggle into Tripoli an aeroplane for scouting purposes, are at last in possession of a machine through a mishap of Captain Moizo, of the Italian army. Captain Moizo was making a flight from Zouara to Tripoli when the motor of his machine stopped and he was obliged to descend in a hostile country. He was promptly captured and the aeroplane appropriated.

Auto Freight Protested.

Washington, D.C.—The existing freight rate of \$7 a hundred pounds on automobiles, in less than carloads, from New York and other Eastern points to Pacific Coast terminals was attacked before the Interstate Commerce commission. The charge for other self-propelling vehicles, less than carloads, is \$4.50 a hundred. Demand is made that the roads reduce the rate on automobiles to \$4.50.

Butterfly Farm Pavs.

Truckee, Cal.—Miss Ximena McGlashan, of Truckee, is a butterfly farmer and is making money at it. In the past six weeks she has propagated and sold 6200 mounted butterflies, for which she received \$310, or 5 cents apiece, which amounts to more than \$50 a week.

'Great French Army Out.

Paris—The most imposing and extensive French army maneuvers in years opened in Touraine and Poitou, when 120,000 soldiers and 50 aeroplanes and two dirigible balloons took the field for a week of mimic warfare.

Horse Plague Spreading.

Council Bluffs—The horse plague has crossed the Missouri river and several animals have died near Shandooah, Clarinda and Pacific Junction, in Page and Mills counties, Iowa.