

THE HAUNTED HAND.

"Can you get it under?"
"Possibly," answered the captain, rather curtly. He was curt even to his interlocutor—a privileged person on board—a tall frail man, with hair that was almost colorless, and manners subtly suggestive of velvet or steel.
They both stepped back a little from the forward hatch. The decks were getting a little too hot, despite the water that ran toward the scupperns. It was very unfortunate that the Mahanaddy's cargo should have ignited on this particular voyage—when the Persian mission was on board, and the whole press agog for their arrival at Plymouth. The captain was mentally vowing that if he had any influence whatever with the directors, and if the good old ship pulled through this, the Mahanaddy should never carry that cursed Egyptian cotton again.
In the meantime they were pounding through the Bay of Biscay in a gray, warm gale of wind, such as dries the skin and sets the nerves to tingle. They were heading straight for Ushant—they were racing with the fire that burnt inside the good ship like some fell disease. And she, as if she had sense and knew her danger, lifted her great black prow to the horizon, and strained forward through the hissing sea. The spray thrown up by the cutter dried immediately on her hot sides, leaving the brine on the black point. Between the planks the pitch exuded, black and glistening like jet. It stuck to the boots of the men and officers, who worked like souls possessed—and if you don't get it under?"
"And if the listener was in pain needing gentle treatment."
The captain gazed over the rail to the wild sea, which seemed to gloat over their trouble, and shrugged his shoulders significantly.
"It is awkward," admitted the other—and he smiled softly.
As has been previously mentioned, he was a privileged person. He was the second in command of the Persian mission, and it was whispered in certain circles that he was second to none in that particular form of diplomacy which was his—namely, the management of Oriental potentates. His chief was below, in his stateroom, penning one of those perfectly worded literary dispatches for which he was famed. It seemed likely that this particular production was destined to be picked up in a bottle by a sardine fisher of the Morbihan—the work of a vanished hand—but that in the estimation of the writer was no reason why it should not be worthy of his reputation. So he sat in the cabin of what seemed to be a doomed ship, and addressed his round periods to Her Majesty's secretary of foreign affairs.
"How are they getting on aft?" said the captain, suddenly.
"Pretty well. The ladies have found it all out, though. They see through our blarneyisms. They know it is touch and go."
The captain turned aside to give an order to one of the quartermasters and when that was executed, there was more to be done. All that human brain could devise, human hands had executed. The hatches were battened and covered deep with soaked canvas. The bulkheads were screwed close—the decks were kept constantly under water. The question now was whether the fire could be smothered or not, and the answer was with Fate.
"I wish," said the captain, "that you would go aft and see up their hearts."
The fair man laughed.
"How," he said, "give them a meal? Can't give them any more meals they have just had lunch."
"Well," said the diplomat, "I will order tea. It is a good thing to die on."
"No—spin them a yarn of something. Distract their attention. It will be settled one way or another in half an hour."
"All right," turning on his heel. "I'll tell them a little story." He lounged aft to where the ladies—there were only five of them—sat in a group, and drew forward a chair and seated himself, crossing one leg over the other and drawing up reflectively a creaseless black sock. He made no pretense at concealment of respect to the ladies, seeming to take it for granted that they all (including three young girls) must know that somewhere the sock ends and the leg begins.
"I have," he said, "been telling the captain a little story—an improving tale with no moral. They lead a slow and monotonous life, these mariners, and I do my best to relieve the dreariness of it."
"Tell us the story," said the Great Lady. She guessed that no questions were to be asked.
"It is," he explained, "a horrible tale! A blood-curdling little narrative which will sound nasty in the daylight."
The sort of tale," continued the narrator, "to haunt you. It haunts me—not the whole of me—only that hand."
He raised in the air his right arm, and contemplated, reflectively, a frail brown-fingered hand.
"That hand," he added, with a vague smile, "is haunted. It has a special ghost of its own. I sometimes wake up in the night and the ghost is there."
"They," he and slowly curved his fingers, "have hold of it."
After a little pause the haunted hand returned to the black sock.
"It was years ago," he began, "when I" (with an imperceptible glance tow-

ard the Great Lady) "was at the bottom of the tree. I was attached in a great city. The peace of Europe was hanging by a thread—not only in the newspapers. A secret treaty was in course of completion between England and another power. A draft of the treaty was sent to my chief. We had it at the embassy and it was rather a white elephant to us, because we suspected that its presence in the house was known to the government of the country to which we were accredited. While it was in the house the chief asked us all to remain at home in the evening, for we all lived under one roof.
"We dined with him every night. He was a bachelor—a dapper little man with a mind like a magnet. He was the very calmest little man I ever dealt with, just the man for the place. For there was no very stable government in the country at that time, and he had to keep four or five parties in a good humor.
"After a long dinner on the third evening we played pool, and went on playing very late, long after the servants had gone to bed.
"It was the chief who heard the sound of stealthy keys being thrust into the lock of the front, which was immediately below his dressing room, whether he had gone to get change for a five—for a large coin.
"He came back to the billiard room looking a little calmer than usual.
"You chaps," he said, putting on his coat, "there is someone trying to force the front door. There is a light in the hall. Shall we go down and watch the operations?"
"We, knowing him too well to take this as a joke, laid aside our cues, followed him without waiting to put on our coats.
"We all crept down stairs and stood on the mat in the dim light of the lowered gas. Five of us, listening to the operations of the skilled workman on the other side of the door.
"This, after the manner of the doors of that country, had no bolts, but only a large lock and chain in one piece with a handle.
"After trying several keys, the idea of opening the door by unlocking it was apparently abandoned. Presently the well-known point of a center bit emerged from the wood-work of the massive panel, with a sound like a dog eating biscuits. The chief motioned us to stand aside, for it was only natural to suppose that an eye would be applied to the hole when completed. Owing to the thickness of the woodwork, the limit of vision could be small, and by crouching down we easily made ourselves invisible.
"In a marvellously short space of time there was a hole as large as that saucer in the door.
"We five crouched around it, watching it like terriers at a rat hole.
"Then an idea struck me—a rare occurrence—and I crept back to the hatstand, where a leather dog leash hung beside the chief's top hat.
"He gave a little nod as I drew thy thigh toward me; for he read thoughts as other men read print.
"I passed the noose end through the steel switch, and cralling on my knees to the door, held the loop thus mad around the hole. I was just in time. The man outside had apparently been delayed in order to turn up his sleeve. He was in no hurry; and we wondered afterward what had become of the police guard specially told off to watch the British embassy.
"A dirty hand—essentially the hand of toll—came through, inside my silhouette. This was followed by a bar while arm. I felt inclined to laugh and my two hands, outstretched to hold the dog leash in place, shook violently.
"The elbow came through and curled, while the dirty fingers crept over the mechanism of the lock and chafed with the intelligence of perfect knowledge.
"A little further until the muscles of the upper arm were visible—then drew the noose tight, cutting deep into the sinews. Like cats, four pairs of hands pounced upon the band and serried it against the woodwork, while the gray fingers worked convulsively. We drew the arm through, right up to the shoulder; and they held it in place while I made fast the stout dog leash to the two bolts of the outer knocker, which jutted out at the top of the door.
"A neat job," said the chief, as we contemplated the twitching white arm.
"A very neat job. There is no hurry," he added, beginning leisurely to unchain the door.
"It happened that I was of an athletic turn of mind in those days, and when I proposed opening the door, my colleagues stepped back and coiled to me the place of honor.
"I opened it with a jerk, and thrust my hand—that hand—to where I knew his throat must be.
"My fingers seemed to go right through it. I grasped something that felt like a chain in a tangle of warm wet seaweed. I had clutched his spine!
"His companions hid for their own protection cut the throat of this poor, hired expert. They had done it so effectively that the head was only retained by the vertebral column. In his agony he had grasped the ball with his right hand, and his right fingers still held to the handle. He was crucified face foremost against the door.
"There was a pause, and the grave man looked around with his gray smile, which was, curious enough, no longer meaningless and placid, but

very wise, with the Wisdom of Life, and not of Books.
"And so," he said, "my hand is haunted. It sometimes wakes up in the night grasping a chain in a tangle of warm and dripping seaweed!"
"Ladies," said the captain, "after so exciting a story it may scarcely interest you to know it, but the fire has been got under."—Toronto Advocate.

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WALTER, BEEFSTEAK, HAM AND EGGS FOR ONE

"God gave us meat, but the devil sent us cooks," is a trite saying. From bad cooking, fast eating, and over-eating, comes a whole train of diseases—indigestion, dyspepsia, biliousness, catarrh of the stomach, headache, dizziness, and the like. God also gave us a brainy man, who compounded the "Golden Medical Discovery," a corrective of all the ills above mentioned, and bad blood. Dr. Pierce, of Buffalo, has furnished us the "Discovery," a great desideratum in America, where everybody is in a hurry to get rich, and has no time to eat, and scarcely any time to live. It invigorates the liver, cleanses the blood, and tones up the system.

Delicate diseases of either sex, however induced, speedily and permanently cured. Book of particulars in tents in stamps, mailed in plain, sealed envelope. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

BOND STREET IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of Astoria, Oregon, have determined to improve the north side of Bond Street, between the east line of 4th street to the west line of 5th street, in the city of Astoria, as laid out and recorded by John Adair, by grading to the full width of said street so much of said portion thereof, as is of greater height or elevation than the established grade, and by planting such part of said street as is to be so graded with new sound fir plank 3 inches in thickness to the width of 23 feet, the remainder of said street and by laying sidewalk 18 feet in width on the north side thereof, and by piling, capping and paring the north side of said street, and by laying sidewalk 18 feet wide on the north side, rainings where necessary, all to be done in accordance with plans and specifications and ordinances in relation thereto.

The lands and premises upon which the special assessment shall be levied to defray the cost and expense of such improvements in the district embracing said lands and premises, be and the same are designated as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at the southwest corner of Block 8, in the southeast corner of said Block 8, and thence westerly on a straight line from the northeast corner of Block 9, to the southeast corner of said Block 8, and thence easterly to the east line of Block 8 and 9, to the southeast corner of said Block 9, 10, 11, and 12, to the southeast corner of said Block 10, and thence westerly on a straight line from the northeast corner of Block 11, to the north west corner of said Block 11, and thence southerly on the west line of Blocks 11, 12, 13, and 14, to the base of grades for said city as established by Ordinance No. 71, entitled "An Ordinance to establish a base of grades for the streets of Astoria," as follows, to-wit:

At the intersection with Astor street, 25 feet.
At the intersection with Bond street, 47 and 40 feet.
The street to be of the heights mentioned throughout the width thereof, and the respective points above designated, and the slope of the street between such designated points to be straight or even.

At any time within ten days from the final publication of this notice, to-wit: within ten days from the 19th day of April, 1896, remonstrance can be made against said proposed alteration of grade, and if within said time a written remonstrance against the same shall be made and filed with the Auditor and Police Judge by the owners of the respective lots above designated, such alteration of grade shall not be made in any event.

By order of the Common Council.
(Attest) K. OSBURN,
Auditor and Police Judge,
April 6th, 1896.

FORTY-SECOND STREET IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of Astoria, Oregon, have determined to improve Forty-second street in the part of said city laid out and recorded by John Adair from the south line of the alleyway running through Blocks 5, 6, and 7, to the center line of Bond street to a width of thirty feet, and by grading to such width on said side thereof (after placing caps and stringers) and by planting such part of said street as is to be so graded with new sound fir plank 3 inches in thickness to the width of 23 feet, the remainder of said street and by piling, capping and paring the north side of said street, and by laying sidewalk 18 feet wide on the north side, rainings where necessary, all to be done in accordance with plans and specifications and ordinances in relation thereto.

The lands and premises upon which the special assessment shall be levied to defray the cost and expense of such improvements in the district embracing said lands and premises, be and the same are designated as follows, to-wit:

At the north line of Franklin avenue, 20 feet.
At the north line of Grand avenue, 45 feet.
At the south line of Grand avenue, 45 feet.
The street to be of the heights mentioned throughout the width thereof, and the respective points above designated, and the slope of the street between such designated points to be straight or even.

At any time within ten days from the final publication of this notice, to-wit: within ten days from the 19th day of April, 1896, remonstrance can be made against said proposed alteration of grade, and if within said time a written remonstrance against the same shall be made and filed with the Auditor and Police Judge by the owners of the respective lots above designated, such alteration of grade shall not be made in any event.

By order of the Common Council.
(Attest) K. OSBURN,
Auditor and Police Judge,
April 6th, 1896.

FORTY-FIFTH STREET IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of Astoria, Oregon, have determined to improve Forty-fifth street in the part of said city laid out and recorded by John Adair, from the south line of the alleyway running through Blocks 5, 6, and 7, to the center line of Bond street to a width of thirty feet, and by grading to such width on said side thereof (after placing caps and stringers) and by planting such part of said street as is to be so graded with new sound fir plank 3 inches in thickness to the width of 23 feet, the remainder of said street and by piling, capping and paring the north side of said street, and by laying sidewalk 18 feet wide on the north side, rainings where necessary, all to be done in accordance with plans and specifications and ordinances in relation thereto.

The lands and premises upon which the special assessment shall be levied to defray the cost and expense of such improvements in the district embracing said lands and premises, be and the same are designated as follows, to-wit:

At the north line of Franklin avenue, 20 feet.
At the north line of Grand avenue, 45 feet.
At the south line of Grand avenue, 45 feet.
The street to be of the heights mentioned throughout the width thereof, and the respective points above designated, and the slope of the street between such designated points to be straight or even.

At any time within ten days from the final publication of this notice, to-wit: within ten days from the 19th day of April, 1896, remonstrance can be made against said proposed grade, and if within said time a written remonstrance against the same shall be made and filed with the Auditor and Police Judge by the owners of the respective lots above designated, such proposed grade shall not be made in any event.

By order of the Common Council.
(Attest) Auditor and Police Judge,
City of Astoria,
Astoria, Oregon, April 6th, 1896.

FIFTEENTH STREET IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of Astoria, Oregon, have determined to improve Fifteenth street in Shively's Astoria, from the north line of Commercial street northerly a distance of 100 feet, by putting in new posts, plies, and stringers, and planning to the full extent to establish a grade.

Said improvements to be made strictly in accordance with plans and specifications and ordinances in relation thereto.

The lands and premises upon which the special assessment shall be levied to defray the cost and expense of such improvements in the district embracing said lands and premises, be and the same are designated as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at a point where the west line of Lot 3 in Block 134, in the town (now city) of Astoria in Clatsop County, Oregon, as laid out and recorded by J. M. Shively, eastward northerly a distance of 100 feet, and thence northerly a distance of 100 feet to a point where the west line of Lot 3 in Block 134, if extended northerly would intersect said line extended or run westerly, and thence southerly on a straight line to a point where the west line of said Lot 3 in Block 134, if extended northerly, would intersect the north line of Commercial street, and thence easterly on the north line of Commercial street to the place at beginning.

All land, real estate and premises within said described limits of said district and any other land or premises to be subject to such assessment as benefitted by such improvement.

Estimates of the expense of such improvement in the district above designated, and any other land or premises of the locality to be improved have been deposited by the City Surveyor with the Auditor and Police Judge for public examination, and may be inspected at the office of such officer.

At the next regular meeting of the Common Council following the final publication of this notice, which meeting will be held on Wednesday, April the 17th, 1896, at the hour of 7:30 p. m., at the City Hall, any objections that may be made to such proposed improvement shall be considered by the council, and if by the time of said meeting a remonstrance against such improvement signed by residents of the city and a majority of the owners of the property in said district shall be filed with the Auditor and Police Judge, such improvement shall not be ordered. If, at all, except by a vote of two-thirds of all members of the council.

By order of the Common Council.
(Attest) K. OSBURN,
Auditor and Police Judge,
April 6th, 1896.

NOTICE OF INTENTION OF COUNCIL TO RE-ESTABLISH GRADE OF PART OF 18TH STREET

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of Astoria, Oregon, have determined and intend to alter the grade of 18th street in the part of the city laid out and recorded by J. M. Shively from the south line of Exchange street to the north line of Franklin avenue so that the grade of said portion of said street when re-established will be at heights above the base of grades for said city as established by Ordinance No. 71, entitled "An Ordinance to establish a base of grades for the streets of Astoria," as follows, to-wit:

At the south line of Exchange street 19 feet.
At the north line of Franklin avenue, 30 feet.
At the north line of Grand avenue, 45 feet.
At the south line of Grand avenue, 45 feet.
The street to be of the heights mentioned throughout the width thereof, and the respective points above designated, and the slope of the street between such designated points to be straight or even.

At any time within ten days from the final publication of this notice, to-wit: within ten days from the 19th day of April, 1896, remonstrance can be made against said proposed alteration of grade, and if within said time a written remonstrance against the same shall be made and filed with the Auditor and Police Judge by the owners of the respective lots above designated, such alteration of grade shall not be made in any event.

By order of the Common Council.
(Attest) K. OSBURN,
Auditor and Police Judge,
April 6th, 1896.

FORTY-SECOND STREET IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of Astoria, Oregon, have determined to improve Forty-second street in the part of said city laid out and recorded by John Adair from the south line of the alleyway running through Blocks 5, 6, and 7, to the center line of Bond street to a width of thirty feet, and by grading to such width on said side thereof (after placing caps and stringers) and by planting such part of said street as is to be so graded with new sound fir plank 3 inches in thickness to the width of 23 feet, the remainder of said street and by piling, capping and paring the north side of said street, and by laying sidewalk 18 feet wide on the north side, rainings where necessary, all to be done in accordance with plans and specifications and ordinances in relation thereto.

The lands and premises upon which the special assessment shall be levied to defray the cost and expense of such improvements in the district embracing said lands and premises, be and the same are designated as follows, to-wit:

At the north line of Franklin avenue, 20 feet.
At the north line of Grand avenue, 45 feet.
At the south line of Grand avenue, 45 feet.
The street to be of the heights mentioned throughout the width thereof, and the respective points above designated, and the slope of the street between such designated points to be straight or even.

At any time within ten days from the final publication of this notice, to-wit: within ten days from the 19th day of April, 1896, remonstrance can be made against said proposed alteration of grade, and if within said time a written remonstrance against the same shall be made and filed with the Auditor and Police Judge by the owners of the respective lots above designated, such alteration of grade shall not be made in any event.

By order of the Common Council.
(Attest) K. OSBURN,
Auditor and Police Judge,
April 6th, 1896.

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IT GIVES FRESHNESS AND CLEAR SKIN. CURES CONSTIPATION, INDIGESTION, DIZZINESS, ERUPTIONS ON THE SKIN, BEAUTIFIES COMPLEXION. 1.50 FOR A CASE. IT WILL NOT CURE. An agreeable Laxative and NERVE TONIC. Sold by Druggists sent by mail. 50c. per box and \$1.00 per package. Samples free. **KONO** The Favorite Toilet Preparation for the South and Islands. For Sale by J. W. Conn.

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PETER BRACH, General Agent
21 Commercial Street, Astoria, Oregon.
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have just been erected at Indio station, that will be rented to applicants at reasonable rates. They are furnished with modern conveniences, and supplied with pure artesian water, and so situated as to give occupants all the advantages to be derived from a more or less protracted residence in this delightful climate.

(From the San Francisco Argonaut.) "In the heart of the great desert of the Colorado—which the Southern Pacific road traverses—there is an oasis called Indio, which, in our opinion, is the sanitarium of the earth. We are here, from personal investigation, that for certain invalids, there is no spot on this planet so favorable."
G. T. Stewart, M. D., writes: "The purity of the air, and the eternal sunlight, fill one with wonder and delight."
"Nature has accomplished so much that there remains but little for man to do. As to its possibilities as a health resort,—here is the most perfect sunshine, with a temperature always pleasant, a perfectly dry soil for rain is an unknown factor; pure oxygen, dense atmosphere, and pure water. What more can be desired? It is the place, above all others, for lung troubles, and a paradise for rheumatism. Considering the number of sufferers who have been cured, I have no hesitancy in recommending this genial oasis as the haven of the afflicted."

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For rates and general information call on or address C. F. OVERBAUGH, Commercial Agent, Astoria, Or.

W. H. HURLBURT, Gen. Pass. Agt., Portland, Or.

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