

TOILERS OF THE COLUMBIA

By Paul De Lancy

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CHAPTER XVIII—Continued.

He found it vacant and entered. The house was poorly furnished, and would have been pronounced unfit for use by girls reared under different conditions from those which had surrounded Sankala's life, but she was accustomed to the fishermen and their ways and viewed things as they viewed them.

There was a crude fireplace and some dry driftwood, but the girl knew that the southsiders were in close proximity and would probably be driven ashore and she feared to kindle a fire which would give warning of her presence. She rolled herself in the dingy bed-clothing of the most decent appearing bunk and attempted to go to sleep. She expected to awaken before dawn when she hoped the storm would have subsided and she might find Dan on the island.

How long she had lain there she did not know, but she was awakened from a half-doze state by voices from the outside. These rose above the storm which beat upon the frail structure with an appalling noise. As they approached nearer and nearer she knew that she was about to have visitors.

Sankala had often visited the old shack and knew of a little loft in the cook room of the structure where fishermen often stored their nets. Taking two of the old quilts which she had brought into the adjoining room and climbed into the loft.

The southsiders began to enter the place from all directions. They had been driven ashore by the storm and naturally took refuge in the camp. They soon had a crackling fire in the fireplace, and began discussing the day's events in loud voices. Sankala was thus enabled to learn what had taken place on their side of the fight. But what she wished to know above all other things was not spoken. The name of Dan Lapham was not mentioned.

The storm continued throughout the entire night. The men talked, sang and swore. Some tried to sleep, while others planned for the following day.

Morning dawned upon the storm at its height. It was nearly midday before it subsided. The sea did not become calm enough for the small fishing boats until late in the afternoon. It was then that the men began to leave the place for another attack upon the island.

Sankala had heard their plans. They thought they could reach the traps and destroy them before the northsiders could come to their defense. It was then the second afternoon since the war had begun, and the southsiders began their attack. The northsiders were on the alert and seeing the movement of the enemy came like an avalanche to meet them.

Sankala was compelled to remain in concealment, though she could see what was going on through a crack in the dilapidated roof. She saw the men scatter on both sides and realized the plan of attack, and the manner of defense. The southsiders had divided into squads, as they had planned to destroy the traps at one fell swoop, while the northsiders divided their purpose and met them accordingly.

Strain her eyes as she would the girl could not distinguish one from another among her friends. They were so far away that they looked like specks upon the water.

The sun went down upon the contestants with honors divided almost equally. They had practically abandoned their fire arms, and were engaged in a hand-to-hand fight with their clubs. There were murders in the hearts of only a few on either side, and but few shots were exchanged. The casualties were light in the afternoon engagement.

As darkness closed in, Sankala was about to come from her hiding place and attempt an escape from the island. But she heard a number of the southsiders returning to the shack, and soon learned from their talk that they had been strongly reinforced, and that others were coming.

The news of the number wounded in the former days' engagement had reached the south shore and the fishermen rose up in their fury, joined by many outside friends, and swore that they would come in sufficient numbers to sweep the river and bay of the northsiders fishermen and their traps.

Sankala learned that they intended to renew the attack at midnight, at which time their reinforcements would arrive in larger boats, armed to complete the work, and that it was their determination to win at any cost of property or life.

How to give the warning to her friends was the question. The plot- ters remained in the shack while runners were sent in different directions to organize the men for the midnight advance.

CHAPTER XIX.

A Traitor at the Helm.

The train pulled into Kalama shortly after dark. It was a special chartered by the state. The sheriff of Pacific county was there to meet it and had been waiting many hours. Matters managed by state are always delayed.

Kalama is on the banks of the Columbia river and also on the line of railroad that crosses from north to south.

An old fashioned boat was tied up at the decaying and tottering wharf. A dark form sat in the pilot house looking out at the crowd as it emerged from the train. A danger light hung from the port side, and at the approach of the train, dark smoke, intermingled with bright red sparks, shot skyward from the smoke-stack.

"Contemptible tin-soldiers!" muttered the man in the pilot house.

"Fine lot of daddies come here to shoot down our fishermen. But they will not shoot them tonight."

Then he turned the pilot wheel back and forth to see that the rudder was in working order. The boat gave a lurch and trembled as if frightened at being disturbed while swinging so quietly to its moorings.

"I will give these assassins a trip for their money tonight," muttered the man at the wheel in meditative tones. "When they find the fishermen they will be so sick of the sea that they will do well to handle themselves let alone a gun."

A company of the state national guard filed off the train at the command of their officer, Captain Budlong. The sheriff of the county led the way to the boat. The soldiers had come under indefinite orders as to time and brought along a sufficient amount of baggage for a siege. Most of the men were clerks in stores, and some of the wealthy men who had joined the guard for a good time and were poorly drilled. It required more than an hour to get their baggage aboard the boat. The man in the pilot house watched them patiently. He did not care how long they were kept there. He was out for delay and would just as lief have it at one point as another.

The pilot of a Columbia river boat is universally called "captain." He is acquainted with the river as one is acquainted with his own neighborhood. He knows every snag in the river and every point, as is required of a river pilot.

When the soldiers were aboard it was found that it only contained the pilot, engineer and one deck-hand. There was no one to instruct the officers as to the point at which the fishermen were assembled.

"This is strange," remarked the sheriff to Captain Budlong. "I expect to see the man in the pilot house as we should proceed. We will go slow and inquire of the captain."

The boat was now pulling at its moorings. The steam was up and the captain was trying the wheel. It was a stern-wheeler and the great wheel turned over like a sea monster as the long arms from the engine-room played on the crank at its axis.

The sheriff and military commander ascended the little iron stairway which led to the roof of the boat and approached the pilot house.

"Sorry, gentlemen, but you can't enter," said the pilot.

"But this is the commander of the militia and he wishes to direct the course of the boat when the scene of the trouble is reached," said the sheriff.

"The government regulations prohibit all persons except the captain from riding in the pilot house," said the pilot. "Besides, there is no necessity for it. I know where the fishermen are and will take you to them. They are a harmless, hard-working set of fellows like myself and will give you no trouble. They will disappear as soon as they see us coming."

"Why have the owners of the boat which we have chartered through the state sent a southsider as a pilot?" inquired the sheriff.

"Because there is not a man on the north side of the river whom the owners would risk with the boat," was the quick reply.

The secretary of state had wired a big company at Portland to supply the militia with a boat to convey it to the seat of the trouble between the fishermen of the two states and which the northsiders state chartered for an indefinite time. The steamboat men all lived on the south side of the river, the seaports all being on that side. In sending out a boat under an emergency the company had picked up a man who was related to a more or less identified with the southside fishermen.

He knew of the proposed midnight attack of his friends upon the northsiders and did not intend to reach the actual scene of conflict in time for interference on the part of the militia. He had intentionally left the representative of the northsiders fishermen, which he had accompanied the expedition as a sort of scout, on the south shore and was prepared to evade a collision with the belligerents until his friends should have the opportunity to do all the damage they desired.

The officers knew that under the government regulations they had no right to enter the pilot house and after instructing the pilot to convey them to the seat of the trouble they retired to the upper deck more or less identified with the southside fishermen.

The boat steamed down the river like a thing of life. The water was calm and the craft moved with the current without effort. Only the swishing of the wheel that propelled the vessel broke the silence of the night.

When once out into the river the pilot gradually turned the nose of the craft in a southerly direction. The Columbia widens her channel as she approaches the ocean until she reaches the width of over fifteen miles. It appeared as a wide sea to the officers and soldiers and the flickering lights on the north and south shores looked like so many stars lining the distant horizon.

An hour after midnight had been reached. The officers had ascended to the pilot house and asked impatient questions.

"I cannot be responsible for the delayed train," replied the pilot. "My boat is doing her best and will get you there as soon as possible."

He was now to the south of the eastern point of Sand Island. He had discovered the dark outline of the boats of his friends lying in the shadow of the island shore. To the south he saw another line of dark shadows which he knew was the flotilla of reinforcements. He could not account for this except an unforeseen delay which often attends the organization of forces.

One thing he did know, and that

was that he would never take the soldiers where they could interfere with his friends so long as he could avoid it.

Suddenly a fishing boat was discovered in front of the vessel. The occupant of the little craft was waving an oar frantically overhead to attract the pilot. He signalled the engineer to reverse the lever and the wheel began to pull back against the current which was taking the boat rapidly toward the ocean.

The officers down stairs rushed upon deck to ascertain the cause of the boat coming to a halt. They soon discovered the figure in the fishing boat and went to the point where the small craft was about to collide with the larger boat.

With an ease brought about by years of experience on the water the figure in the small boat guided the little craft alongside the larger vessel and the two came together without scarcely a jar. A rope ladder was thrown over the side of the large vessel and the form leaped the fishing boat and glided up the frail stairway like a shadow.

"Why, it's a woman—a girl!" said Captain Budlong as she stepped on the deck.

"Yes, it is Sankala!" said the sheriff as he recognized the girl.

(To be continued)

CHOP SUEY COPYRIGHT.

Dish Originated in San Francisco and Not in China.

If people can be required to pay royalties on gold teeth that they have worn for years, and on drivers' wheels from which their fathers have drunk before them, there would seem to be no reason why they might not have to pay them on copyrighted dishes which they have long ago eaten and digested, says the New York Mail. There is a San Francisco Chinaman in town who claims to have a copyright on the dish called chop suey, and he wants his back royalties as well as his front ones.

It must be explained first of all, that chop suey is not a Chinese dish. This is no news even to amateur Orientalists, but probably it is to the average American citizen. It is a San Francisco invention, or rather adaptation; it is an Irish stew translated into Chinese for purely occidental degeneration. With its usual black ignorance of oriental ways, the American public accepted it at once as the Chinese national dish, upon which the son of heaven and his imperial household are supposed to dine every day. Even American officials were surprised when Prince Pu Lin blandly inquired in Chinatown the other day: "What is chop suey?"

Oriental or occidental, it is a good dish. It constitutes a ration in which a nice balance has been reached between the animal and the vegetable, between protein and mere bulk. If Mr. Lem Sen, of San Francisco, can establish his copyright on the use of the dish for the future, he may become a millionaire, honorably and usefully. If he succeeds in making his patent retroactive he will produce a certain distress in regions where the ingredients of the dish itself have seldom wrought any disturbance.

The Girth of Man Increasing.

An excellent illustration of the value of records has been afforded lately regarding the question of physical degeneracy. A firm in the north of England has compared the measurements for clothing made two generations ago with those of today, the results going to show that chest and hip measurements are now three inches on the average more than they were sixty years ago. The same conclusion is reached by the experience of the ready-made clothing trade. These facts, whatever may be their generality, do not quite dispose of the question of degeneracy. They are what we should expect from the more abundant and cheaper food of the people, their better housing and improved sanitary surroundings, but the testimony regarding the usefulness of recruits and progressive lack of stamina in town, and especially manufacturing, populations cannot be disregarded. The girth of man may be increasing, but like a fattening hog, is not compensatingly bringing clumsiness.

Limit of Laziness.

Two dorkies lay sprawled on the levee on a hot day. Moses drew a long sigh and said, "Heey-ah-h! Ah wish Ah had a hundred watermelons!"

"You're eyes lighted dimly. 'Hum-yah! Dat would suit me fine. An' of yo' had a hund' watermelons would yo' gib me fifty?'"

"No. Ah wouldn't gib yo' no fifty watermelons."

"Wouldn't yo' gib me twenty-five?'"

"No. Ah wouldn't gib yo' no twenty-five."

"Seems ter me youse powahful stingy, Moses. Wouldn't yo'—wouldn't yo' gib me one?'"

"No. Ah wouldn't gib yo' one. Look a hyah, biggah, are yo' so good-fer-mint in lazy dat yo' cahnt wish fo' yo' own watermelons?'"

How Celluloid is Made.

Celluloid, the chemical compound which bears so close a resemblance to ivory, is a mixture of collodion and camphor, invented in 1855 by Parkesine, of Birmingham, whose name for a time it bore. The process of manufacture is as follows: Cigarette paper is soaked in a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids until it becomes nitro-cellulose. After thorough washing, to free it from the acids, this cellulose is dried, mixed with a certain quantity of camphor, and coloring matter if required, and then passed through a roller mill. It is next formed into thin sheets by hydraulic pressure and afterward broken up by toothed rollers and soaked for some hours in alcohol. A further pressure and a hot rolling process finish it, and results in ivory-like sheets half an inch thick.

Not Up to Date.

"Mamma," said the pretty Suffy-haired girl, "I think I ought to go to cooking school, don't you?"

"It isn't necessary, my dear," replied the mother, "I can teach you to cook."

"But that would never do, mamma," protested the fair daughter, "you only know how to cook the ordinary things that people really eat."

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Cheap Preachers Make Cheap Churches

A recent church conference, held in one of the Western States, it developed that several of the ministers received less than \$300 a year each. A few were paid \$150, while one was struggling to save souls on a salary of \$120 a year. In the light of these disclosures the frequently deplored scarcity of ministers is not so much of a mystery as some have considered it. Added to the terrors of the donation party, such meager salaries are enough to deter the bravest man from entering the ministry.

Men capable of being preachers can earn more in almost any other vocation, and no man who is not capable is fit to preach the gospel. It is possible, of course, that some of these poorly paid clergymen receive all their services are worth. In such cases the church and the community would be better off if they were to put their talents to some other use.

The church cannot thrive upon cheap preaching, any more than a school can flourish upon cheap teaching. The railways and the great financial and industrial concerns of the country employ none but the highest ability, and they pay the highest price for it. The average minister of the gospel is worthy of his hire; and his hire should be sufficient to maintain him in accord with the dignity of his calling.—Chicago Journal.

Carelessness and Engineers.

ONE reads, almost daily, accounts of an accident that has occurred upon some steam or elevated railway, in which a number of people have been killed or injured, through a rear-end collision. What is the cause of the frequency of these catastrophes? This question may be answered by the single word—carelessness. And the blame generally is attributable to the negligence of the engineer at the throttle or the controller bar, as the case may be. It is due to the public that every precaution should be observed to insure safety in travel, and it is doubtless a moral duty that devolves upon the officials of railway corporations to employ only competent men as engineers or motormen. Competency does not merely mean the ability to run a locomotive or train of cars, for there are other qualifications of far more importance required of those who carry the lives of persons in their care. The first and most important requisite which an engineer should possess is carelessness, and until this is the standard of qualification, manslaughter, which is now generally termed accident, will continue at the present rate.

There are comparatively fewer collisions and accidents in England than in this country, as can be shown by statistics. Is it because greater care is observed in the selection of engineers, or is it that the men are better trained? At any rate, our railway accidents are too numerous, and they must be reduced. Make care of every engineer so employed, and a solution of the problem will be found.—The American Inventor.

Squelch the Student Rioters.

COLLEGE students all over the country to-day are nursing broken heads and bruised bodies. The symptoms that are being extended to them wouldn't comfort a sick cat. The day may come when students will cease making asses of themselves, but the hope of the thing is pretty near dead.

Klutos "Tech" students in Boston attacked the police and were punished. Sophomores and freshmen at the University of Illinois had a fight. One student was seriously injured and now lies in a hospital cot. Others were battered and bruised. Four students living on the North Side of Chicago played pranks with tombstones, things ordinarily held sacred by all but savages, and when the fun of the thing palled they smashed the windows of a passing trolley car with stones, wounding up their peculiar student-like actions by attacking the driver. These precious youngsters were given a chance to cool off in a cell.

The people are too prone to wink at the devilry of students. It's called high spirits and animal energy and a lot of other not about lack of criminal intent is indulged in. This sort of stuff breeds riot. The students, every one of whom has reached the age of moral responsibility,

DESERT WELLS.

When the "tenderfoot" first strikes the desert country he is surprised to learn that he is expected to pay for the water he uses for himself and for his beast. A little later, says the author of "The Mystic Mid-Region," he becomes indignant upon finding himself unable to purchase even a small quantity because of the extreme caution of the proprietor of some desert well where he has expected to replenish his stock of water.

It is not an unusual happening for the desert traveler, who has toiled hours over the burning sands after his supply of water has been used up, to find the desert dweller unwilling to spare a drop of his scanty supply. Not all desert wells are dependable, and sometimes the solitary dweller of the oasis finds his supply exhausted. He then has to haul all the water he uses forty or fifty miles until such time as the winter rains come to replenish the vein which feeds his well.

Men tortured by thirst become desperate. A thirsty man knows no law save that of might. Not once ago a respectable citizen of a little California town had occasion to cross the desert at a point where water holes were few and far apart. He depended upon obtaining water at a certain ranch, established at one of the oases on his route, and when he arrived there he and his guide and burros were in sad condition, having been several hours without water. He gave his guide a five-dollar gold piece and told him to see the rancher and purchase the water necessary to carry them to the next watering place. It happened that the rancher's well was in danger of going dry, and he declined the money. He refused to part with any water. Pleadings were unavailing, and the guide returned to his employer and reported his inability to make a deal. Thus the staid citizen arose, and with a ten-dollar gold piece in one hand and a revolver in the other, sought the rancher.

"There is ten dollars for the water, if you will sell it," he said, "and if not, I shall take it, anyway! Now which shall it be?"

There was but one reply to an argument of that kind; the rancher sulkily accepted the money, the brackish water was drawn from the well, and the journey was soon resumed. As a result of this transaction, however, the rancher was obliged to take a forty-mile journey over the desert and back, to replenish his water supply from another well.

Strengthens Their Vandal Desires with the Very Weakness of the Public View.

When they are taught that the laws of decent conduct are for them as for others and that the penalty falls on all alike there may be some chance of reform.

The shining heights of student assiduity were reached at the University of California. The students of "war tactics" rebelled because they were to be taught to march. They would take the truly royal road to learning. Could there be an exhibition of more consummate folly than that of a lot of youngsters who would learn the science of war without going through the preparatory school of the soldier? What they need is two hours' "setting up" drill in the sun without a single "in place rest" order.

College students may be too old to be spanked, but the hard hand of authority ought to do something in the punishing line—and that quickly.—Chicago Post.

Has Japan the Money for a Long War?

NO nation can wage a protracted war unless it possesses an abundance of cash. In the long run it is possible that the conflict in the Far East will be determined by "hard cash" as much as by the valor and endurance of the victor. For the fiscal year 1904-05 the cost of the war in Japan is estimated at \$284,900,000. This outlay has already been provided for by the Japanese Parliament, which has authorized an internal loan of \$191,000,000 and treasury orders to the amount of \$15,000,000. The balance is to be raised by increased taxation.

How long can Japan stand such an expenditure? The Russian press is almost unanimous in declaring that it is the unalterable purpose of the Czar's government to continue the war until Russia is victorious. That may mean a war of several years' duration. Evidently the Japanese realize that there is to be a prolonged conflict, for the Mikado, in congratulating his soldiers for their valor in the series of battles which compelled Kuroghin to give up Liao Yang, frankly stated that the end of the war was a long way off. If Japan can get the money there seems to be no question of its ability to fight the Russians on equal terms. But will the financiers of Europe keep the Japanese government in funds? Will the British allies of Japan be ready to furnish her after loan, on the theory that the Japanese are fighting Great Britain's battles as well as their own? This is a phase of the war which must give the Mikado's government no little concern, for, after all, the longest purse and not the most brilliant strategy may prove the decisive factor, unless the Japanese conduct an aggressive winter campaign and destroy or capture the main Russian army.—Baltimore Sun.

Forest Growing in Prairie States.

THE American Government Bureau of Forestry has selected two widely separated sections of the treeless area of the West for a study in artificial forestry during the present season. A field force is at work studying the soils and the kind of timber best adapted to the States of Illinois and the two Dakotas, the former being a low, level prairie for the most part, and the latter, a high table-land, but both without trees, except along the streams. There has been considerable private tree planting in both States, chiefly, however, on a small scale, and for purposes of shade and shelter for farm buildings.

The Forestry Bureau is making a study of the subject with a view to the encouragement of tree planting on a more extensive scale. Two purposes are to be furthered by this: one, the growth of timber suitable for fuel, fencing and building purposes, and the other, the gradual growth of timber shelter belts at intervals sufficient to break the force of the fierce winds that sweep across these plains. Some experiments in this line have demonstrated two very important benefits, the one being that the winter whistles protected by these shelter belts survives, where otherwise it would be blown bare and killed. The other demonstrated advantage is that in the drought seasons the sheltered land retains moisture much longer than that which is wind swept. As great portions of the treeless sections of the American West have a deficient rainfall at best, the importance of retarding evaporation can hardly be over-estimated.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

SUES A RIGHTEOUS DECEIT

Lawyer Tells How He Saved His Client a Lot of Trouble.

"Our cleverest work," said the old lawyer reminiscently, "is not always done in court."

"No," said the young man inquiringly. "Possibly you could give an illustration."

"Undoubtedly I could," replied the old lawyer. "In fact, I was thinking of the case of an irascible old fellow who once kicked a servant out of the house. I believe there was a difference of opinion as to the amount of wages the man was entitled to. At any rate, the testy old gentleman put himself in the wrong when he ejected the man with violence of both language and action and the man was smart enough to know it."

"He hunted up a lawyer immediately and put the case in his hands and then I was called in. The wrathful old fellow was mad clear through and he was going to fight the case all the way up to the highest court and back again if necessary. He was a personal friend of mine and I didn't want to see him waste his money foolishly, so I advised him to compromise it."

"Not if he offers to compromise for 10 cents," he asserted vociferously. "I'll fight this case clear to the limit no matter what it costs."

"I argued with him, but it was no use. He'd pay me anything I wanted to fight the case, but he wouldn't pay the plaintiff a cent. I would have been justified under the circumstances in going ahead and letting him run into a lot of expensive and useless litigation, but I didn't like to do it. So I went to see the lawyer on the other side. He knew he had a good case, but he also knew that my client had lots of money and could make a prolonged and costly fight. Consequently he was inclined to be reasonable. He hunted up his client and talked it over with him and the client said he would compromise for \$25. His lawyer made a reasonable charge and I closed with them on the spot and paid them."

"Then I went back to my client, told him I had put up such a bluff that he never would hear of the case again, turned in a bill that covered the cost of the settlement I had effected and he paid it without a murmur. He sometimes speaks to me now of the clever work I did in that case, but he doesn't know how clever it really was and what a lot of cash it saved him."

—New York Press.

Whenever we see a woman walking up the street with several children and a valise, we wonder who is going to draw her.

If a girl is popular she enters her married life with a solid stomach, as the result of parties given in her honor. Combine this with new shoes, and then talk about "happy brides" if you dare.

MEN'S HAIR FASHIONS.

Not So Various as Women's but Subject to Change.

"We hear a good deal about the various styles in which women dress their hair," said the barber, "but we don't hear much said about the styles in which men wear their hair."

"Yet men do have styles in this regard which they follow closely, though they do not change their styles so frequently as women do theirs, nor are their styles so various. They are, indeed, confined mostly to changes in the part."

"Two or three years ago, as you will remember, it was the fashion for men to part their hair in the middle, and this was the fashion very commonly followed, and by many elderly as well as by young men. There were many older men not adverse to following the fashion of the younger men to make themselves more like the younger man in appearance, and then many an older man found that by parting his hair in the middle he was enabled to cover up the bare spots that time had brought to his temples, and he took kindly to the fashion on that account."

"So parting the hair in the middle was really the prevailing fashion, and men, old and young, wearing their hair in that manner were to be met on every hand. But now a man with his hair so parted is but rarely seen; pretty much every man now parts his hair on the side, and a man, old or young, with hair parted in the middle would attract attention."

"Men have individual ways in the wearing of their hair, as, for example, some men who think long hair is becoming to them may wear their hair long, and some men with naturally curly hair may not try very hard to comb it out straight. There are men who follow their fancies as to how they shall wear their hair, just as there are some women who disregard the style and wear their hair in the manner they believe to be most becoming to them; but as to the part, the prevailing style for men now is to have that on the side.

"Women say that men look better with their hair parted on the side than in the middle, but I don't think this has anything to do with making the style, for most men consider themselves attractive anyway, and I look in due time to see the middle part become fashionable again."

"As a matter of fact, the side part, which is the natural part for men, does prevail in the long run, taking a long series of years; but men like a change, and the middle part pleases their vanity, or in some cases serves a purpose, and it will no doubt come in again, to last at least for a while. Men change their ways of wearing their hair just as they change the styles of the shoes they wear."—New York Sun.

TO RESTORE FAMOUS TOWER.

The Archbishop of Canterbury appealed recently for funds to restore the Bell Harry Tower of Canterbury Cathedral as it is suffering from grievous external decay. The cost of re-



BELL HARRY TOWER OF CANTERBURY.

pairs will amount to no less than \$50,000, which includes \$5,000 for scaffolding alone, and \$15,000 more will be needed for other repairs. The bell tower was finished in 1495 and is 235 feet high.

Mammoth Caves in France.

One of the strangest holiday resorts, and one of the most interesting, is that recently made accessible to the public at Padirac, in the Department of Lot, France. There a wonderful series of caverns, containing magnificent stalactites and a subterranean lake and river, has yielded its secrets to the adventurous explorer, and the dangers of the visit have now been ingeniously reduced, so that the average night-crawler may traverse these "antres vast" with ease and safety.

For ages the caves remained absolutely unexplored, but by the enterprise of M. Martel, a barrister, they have been thoroughly examined and described, and by means of iron stairways and galleries have been rendered accessible. One vast crater-like opening is 300 feet in circumference, and when M. Martel made his first visit to the depths he had to descend on a board attached to two ropes after the manner of a swing. He went down 300 feet, and with several companions began an extraordinary series of discoveries. The chief of these is an underground river, which he navigated in a collapsible boat.

Cheaper to Be in Jail.

First Cook—How's business?
Second Cook—Slow. Dere's such a lot of officials lookin' for a rakkoff dese days a feller can't hardly afford to keep out of jail.—Browning's Magazine.

Japan's Big Rice Crop.

Japan's rice crop for this year is estimated to exceed by 20 per cent the average annual crop.

So far as we can see, a home on a farm offers only one advantage over the town: The neighbors can't hear the fusing.

There's no use denying that a man can fix his moustache in a way that makes him look mighty fierce.