

INTERESTING FACTS

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Portland Markets.
Wheat—Walla Walla, 72; bluestem, 77; valley, 73.
Flour—best grades, \$3.50-\$3.65 per barrel; graham, \$3.10-\$3.25.
Oats—No. 1, white, \$1.70-\$1.80; gray, \$1.45 per cental.
Barley—Feed, \$2.10 per ton; \$2.10 brewing rolled, \$2.25 per ton.
Millet—rolled, \$2.40; middlings, \$2.75; shorts, \$2.30 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$206.25; clover, \$17.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 20¢; 22¢ dairy, nominal; sweet, 17¢ to 18¢ per pound.
Eggs—fresh 16¢ to 17¢.
Cheese—Full cream twins, 16¢ to 17¢; Young American, 17¢ to 18¢ per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 12¢ to 13¢ per lb; hens, 13¢ to 14¢; roosters, 10¢ to 11¢; broilers, 6¢ to 7¢; fryers, 14¢ to 15¢; ducks 13¢ to 14¢; geese, 8¢; turkeys, live 12¢ to 13¢; dressed 18¢ to 19¢ per lb.
Hops—Gross, heavy, \$6.50 per 7; light, \$4.75 per 5; dressed, \$6.00 per 7.
Veal—Small, 74¢ per 8; large, 76¢ per 8.
Beef—Gross top steers, \$4.50 to \$5.50; \$6.00 to \$7.00 per pound.
Wool—Valley, 13¢ to 15¢; Eastern Oregon, at 14¢; mohair, 35¢ to 38¢ per pound.
Potatoes—50¢ to \$1.00 per sack.
Onions—40¢ per cental.

\$200 Padishah
The Best and Most Accurate Watch Made
Non-Magnetic
Fully Guaranteed
For sale by ALL JEWELERS
Illustrated Booklet on request, showing COLORED FANCY DIALS
The New England Watch Co.
Factories—Waterbury, Conn.
Office—New York, Chicago, San Francisco.

"Suppose not," returned Francis. "You must surely have some notion of these famous galleries, containing pictures, silks, statues, jewels or what?"

"My faith, sir," said the fellow, with a shrug, "it might be carrots, and still I could not tell you. How should I know? The house is kept like a garri-son, as you perceive."

And that as Francis was returning disappointed to his room the porter called him back.

"I have just remembered, sir," said he, "M. de Vandeleur has been in all parts of the world, and I once heard the old woman declare that he had brought many diamonds back with him. If that be the truth, there must be a fine show behind those shutters."

By an early hour on Sunday Francis was in his place at the theater. The seat which had been taken for him was only two or three numbers from the left hand side and directly opposite one of the lower boxes. As the seat had been specially chosen there was doubtless something to be learned from its position, and he judged by an instinct that the box upon the right was, in some way or other, to be connected with the drama in which he ignorantly played a part. Indeed it was so situated that its occupants could so fully observe him from beginning to end of the piece. If they were so minded, while, profiting by the depth, they could screen themselves sufficiently well from any counter examination on his side. He promised himself not to leave it for a moment out of sight, and while he scanned the rest of the theater or made a show of attending to the business of the stage he always kept a corner of an eye upon the empty box.

The second act had been drawing to its progress and was again drawing to its close when the door opened and two persons entered and enounced themselves in the darkest of the shades. Francis could hardly control his emotion. It was Mr. Vandeleur and his daughter. The blood came and went in his arteries and veins with stunning activity; his ears rung; his head turned. He dared not look lest he should awake suspicion. His playbill, which he kept reading from end to end and over again, turned from numbers from the left hand side and while he cast a glance upon the stage it seemed inconspicuously far away, and he found the voices and gestures of the actors to the last degree impertinent and absurd.

To Be Continued.

took the room, paid an advance upon the rent and returned to his hotel to seek his baggage.

The old man with the saber cut might or might not be his father; he might or he might not be upon the true scent, but he was certainly on the edge of an exciting mystery, and he promised himself that he would not relax his observation until he had got to the bottom of the secret.

From the window of his new apartment Francis Scrymgeour commanded a complete view into the garden of the house with the green blinds. Immediately below him a very comely chestnut with wide boughs sheltered a pair of rustic tables where people might dine in the height of summer. On all sides save one a dense vegetation concealed the soil, but there, between the tables and the house, he saw a patch of gravel walk leading from the veranda to the garden gate. Studying the place from between the boards of the venetian shutters, which he dared not open for fear of attracting attention, Francis observed that it was intended to indicate the main entrance to the house, and that little argued no more than a close reserve and a taste for solitude. The garden was conventional, the house had the air of a prison. The green blinds were all drawn down upon the outside; the door into the veranda was closed; the garden, as far as he could see it, was left entirely to itself in the evening sunshine. A modest curl of smoke from a single chimney again testified to the presence of living people.

In order that he might not be entirely idle and to give a certain color to his way of life Francis had purchased Euclid's Geometry in French, which he set himself to copy and translate on the top of his portmanteau and seated on the floor against the wall, for he was equally without a chair or table. From time to time he would rise and cast a glance into the inclosure of the house with the green blinds, but the windows remained obstinately closed and the garden empty.

Only late in the evening did anything occur to reward his continual attention. Between 9 and 10 the sharp tinkle of a bell aroused him from a fit of dozing, and he sprang to his observatory in time to hear an important noise of locks being opened and bars removed and to see Mr. Vandeleur, carrying a lantern and clothed in a flowing robe of black velvet with a shawl to match, black from under the veranda and proceeding leisurely toward the garden gate. The sound of bolts and bars was then repeated, and a moment after Francis perceived the dictator escorting into the house in the mobile light of the lantern an individual of the lowest and most despicable appearance.

Half an hour afterward the visitor was reconducted to the street, and Mr. Vandeleur, setting his light upon one of the rustic tables, finished a cigar with great deliberation under the foliage of the chestnut. Francis, peering through a clear space among the leaves, was able to follow his gestures as he threw away the ash or enjoyed a copious inhalation and beheld a cloud upon the old man's forehead that forebode action of the lips, which testified to some deep and probably painful train of thought. The cigar was already almost at an end when the voice of a young girl was heard suddenly crying from the interior of the house.

"In a moment," replied John Vandeleur.

And with that he threw away the stump and, taking up the lantern, sallied away under the veranda for the night. As soon as the door was closed absolute darkness fell upon the house. Francis might try his eyesight as much as he pleased, he could not detect so much as a single chink of light below a blind, and he concluded, with great gloom, that the bedchambers were all upon the other side.

Early the next morning (for he was early awake after an uncomfortable night upon the floor) he saw cause to adopt a different explanation. The blinds rose, one after another, by means of a spring in the interior and disclosed steel shutters such as we see on the front of shops. These in their turn were rolled up by a similar contrivance, and for the space of about an hour the chambers were left open to the morning air. At the end of that time Mr. Vandeleur with his own hands once more closed the shutters and replaced the blinds from within.

While Francis was still marveling at these precautions the door opened and a young girl came forth to look about her in the garden. It was not two minutes before she re-entered the house, but even in that short time he saw enough to convince him that she possessed the most unusual attractions. His curiosity was not only highly excited by this incident, but his spirits were improved to a still more notable degree. The staid manners and more than equivoical life of his father ceased from that moment to prey upon his mind. From that moment he embraced his new family with ardor, and, whether the young lady should prove his sister or his wife, he felt convinced she was an angel in disguise. So much was this the case that he was seized with a sudden horror when he reflected how little he really knew and how possible it was that he had followed the wrong person when he followed Mr. Vandeleur.

The porter, whom he consulted, could afford him little information, but such as it was, it had a mysterious and questionable sound. The person next door was an English gentleman of extraordinary wealth and proportionately eccentric in his tastes and habits. He possessed great collections, which he kept in the house beside him, and it was to protect these that he had fitted the place with steel shutters, elaborate fastenings and chevaux de frise along the garden wall. He lived much alone, in spite of some strange visitors with whom it seemed he had business to transact, and there was no one else in the house except mademoiselle and an old woman servant.

"Is mademoiselle his daughter?" inquired Francis.

"Certainly," replied the porter. "Mademoiselle is the daughter of the house, and strange it is to see how she is made to work. For all his riches, it is she who goes to market, and every day in the week you may see her going by with a basket on her arm."

"And the collections?" asked the other.

"Sir," said the man, "they are immensely valuable. More I cannot tell you. Since M. de Vandeleur's arrival on one in the quarter has so much as passed the door."

brother, and, once that is concluded, I return to Paris, where I usually reside. If you please, you may accompany me further, and before the end of a month I believe I shall have brought your little business to a satisfactory conclusion."

At this point, contrary to all the enons of his art, our Arabian author breaks off the "Story of the Young Man in Holy Orders." I regret and condemn such practices, but I must follow my original and refer the reader for the conclusion of Mr. Rolles' adventures to the next number of the cycle, the "Story of the House With the Green Blinds."

The RAJAH'S DIAMOND

PART III

Story of the House With the Green Blinds

FRANCIS SCRYMGEOUR, a clerk in the Bank of Scotland at Edinburgh, had attained the age of twenty-five in a sphere of quiet, creditable and domestic life. His mother died while he was young, but his father, a man of sense and probity, had given him an excellent education at school and brought him up at home to orderly and frugal habits. Francis, who was of a docile and affectionate disposition, profited by these advantages with zeal and devoted himself heart and soul to his employment. A walk upon Saturday afternoon, an occasional dinner with members of his family and a yearly tour of a fortnight in the highlands or even on the continent of Europe were his principal diversions, and he grew rapidly in favor with his superiors and enjoyed already a salary of nearly £200 a year, with the prospect of an ultimate advance to at most double that amount. Few young men were more contented, few more willing and laborious than Francis Scrymgeour. Sometimes at night, while he had read the daily paper, he would play upon the flute to amuse his father, for whose qualities he entertained a great respect.

One day he received a note from a well-known firm of writers to the effect requesting the favor of an immediate interview with him. The letter was marked "Private and Confidential," and had been addressed to him at the bank instead of at home, two unusual circumstances which made him obey the summons with the more alacrity. The senior member of the firm, a man of much austerity of manner, made him gravely welcome, requested him to take a seat and proceeded to explain the matter in hand in the plainest and most direct manner. A person, who must remain nameless, but of whom the lawyer had every reason to think well—a man, in short, of some station in the country—desired to make Francis an annual allowance of £500. The capital was to be placed under the control of the lawyer's firm and two trustees, who must also remain anonymous. There were conditions annexed to this liberality, but he was of opinion that his new client would find nothing either excessive or dishonorable in the terms, and he repeated these two words with emphasis, as though he desired to commit himself to nothing more.

Francis asked their nature.

"The conditions," said the writer to the signet, "are, as I have twice remarked, neither dishonorable nor excessive. At the same time I cannot conceal from you that they are most unusual. Indeed the whole case is very much out of our way, and I should certainly have refused it had it not been for the reputation of the gentleman who intrusted it to my care and, let me add, Mr. Scrymgeour, the interest I have been led to take in yourself by many complimentary and I have no doubt, well deserved reports."

Francis entreated him to be more specific.

"You cannot picture my uneasiness as to these conditions," he said.

"They are two," replied the lawyer, "only two, and the sum, as you will remember, is £500 a year, and unburdened. I forget to add, unburdened."

And the lawyer raised his eyebrows at him with solemn gusto.

"The first," he resumed, "is of remarkable simplicity. You must be in Paris by the afternoon of Sunday, the 15th. There you will find, at the box office of the Comedie Francaise, a ticket for admission taken in your name and waiting you. You are requested to sit out the whole performance in the seat provided, and that is all."

"I should certainly have preferred a weekday," replied Francis. "But, after all, once in a way."

"And in Paris, my dear sir," added the lawyer soothingly. "I believe I am something of a precisian myself, but upon such a consideration as this Paris, I should not hesitate an instant."

And the pair laughed pleasantly together.

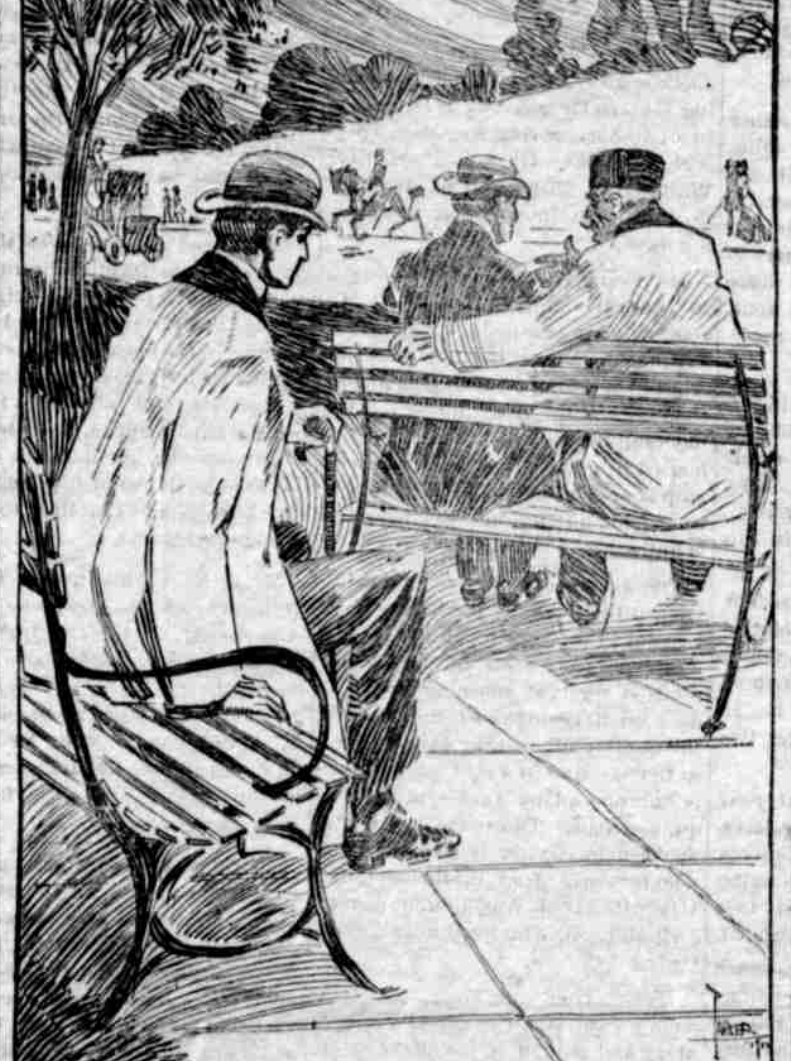
"The other is of more importance," continued the writer to the signet. "It regards your marriage. My client, taking a deep interest in your welfare, desires to advise you absolutely in the choice of a wife—absolutely, you understand, he repeated.

"Let us be more explicit, if you please," returned Francis. "Am I to marry any one, maid or widow, black or white, whom this invisible person chooses to propose?"

"I was to assure you that suitability of age and position should be a principle with your benefactor," replied the lawyer. "As to race, I confess the difficulty had not occurred to me, and I failed to inquire, but if you like, I will make a note of it at once and advise you on the earliest opportunity."

"Sir," said Francis, "it remains to be seen whether this whole affair is not a most unworthy fraud. The circumstances are irresponsible, I had almost said incredible—and until I see a little more daylight and some plausible motive I confess I should be very sorry to put a hand to the transaction. I appeal to you on this difficulty for information. I must learn what is at the bottom of it all. If you do not know, or are not at liberty to tell me, I should be very glad to see you at my bankers, Ebenezer, to-morrow."

"I do not know," answered the lawyer, "but I have an excellent guess.



HE NOISELESSLY TOOK HIS PLACE BEHIND THE COUPLE.

first not doubtful. His whole career had been prosaically toward the usual year and the strange conditions with which it was burdened. He discovered in his heart an invincible repugnance to the name of Scrymgeour, which he had never hitherto disliked; he began to despise the narrow and unromantic interests of his former life, and when once his mind was fairly made up he walked with a new feeling of strength and freedom and nourished himself with the gayest anticipations.

He said but a word to the lawyer and immediately received a check for two quarters' arrears, for the allowance was antedated from the 1st of January. With this in his pocket he walked home. The flat in Scotland street looked new in his eyes; his nostrils, for the first time, rebelled against the odor of broth, and he observed little defects of manner in his adoptive father which filled him with surprise and almost with disgust. The next day, he determined, should see him on his way to Paris.

In that city, where he arrived long before the appointed date, he put up at a modest hotel frequented by English and Italians and devoted himself to improvement in the French tongue. For this purpose he had a master twice a week, entered into conversation with loafers in the Champs Elysees and nightly frequented the theater. He had his whole toilet fashionably renewed, and was shaved and had his hair dressed every morning by a barber in a neighboring street. This gave him something of a foreign air and seemed to wipe off the reproach of his past years.

At length, on the Saturday afternoon, he betook himself to the box office of the theater in the Rue Richelieu. No sooner had he mentioned his name than the clerk produced the order in an envelope of which the address was scarcely dry.

"It has been taken this moment," said the clerk.

"Indeed!" said Francis. "May I ask what the gentleman was like?"

"Your friend is easy to describe," replied the official. "He is old and strong and beautiful, with white hair and a saber cut across his face. You cannot fail to recognize so marked a person."

"No, indeed," returned Francis, "and I thank you for your politeness."

"He cannot yet be far distant," added the clerk. "If you make haste, you might still overtake him."

Francis did not wait to be twice told. He ran precipitately from the theater into the middle of the street and looked in all directions. More than one white haired man was within sight; but, though he overtook each of them in succession, all wanted the saber cut. For nearly half an hour he tried one street after another in the neighborhood, until, at length, recognizing the folly of continual search, he started on a walk to compass his agitated feet. He ran precipitately from the theater into the middle of the street and looked in all directions. More than one white haired man was within sight; but, though he overtook each of them in succession, all wanted the saber cut. For nearly half an hour he tried one street after another in the neighborhood, until, at length, recognizing the folly of continual search, he started on a walk to compass his agitated feet. He ran precipitately from the theater into the middle of the street and looked in all directions. 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