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BARBARY PIRATES

These Fiends Terrorized the Sea For Five Centuries.

DEFIED THE ENTIRE WORLD.

They Held at One Time Forty Thousand Captives as Slaves, Among Whom Was Cervantes—The Cannon's Mouth For a French Envoy.

Those pests of the sea, the Barbary pirates, who defied the civilized world for 500 years, had at one time 40,000 Christian slaves in bondage in Algeria. The methods by which they were obtained and how treated are described by Sir Henry Norman in Scribner's Magazine.

"Ships were seized in all European waters, even off the coast of Ireland, and their crews taken into slavery. So were the crews of vessels which came to trade. When any state attempted punishment the counsel of that country was sent to the galleys, and Sir Lambert Playfair, British consul general and erudite author of Murray's 'Handbook,' tells us that in one instance on the approach of a French fleet their representative was blown toward them from a mortar. Cervantes himself was a slave there in 1555.

"In the seventeenth century the Algerine pirates held prizes worth 20,000,000 francs. Again and again the Christian powers of that and the next century failed to inflict a lasting defeat upon this scourge of Christendom. The British parliament passed an act to 'undertake the Christian work of the redemption of the captives from the cruel thralldom they lay under,' but its intention exceeded its power, for not long afterward 350 English ships were captured and 6,000 English slaves brought into Algiers in the space of seven years, and when after five years' war between England and the pirate state a peace was signed the day refused to surrender his single English slave, and the treaty had a clause to the effect that the king of Great Britain shall not be obliged by virtue of this treaty to redeem any of his subjects now in slavery; probably the most degrading treaty, as Sir Lambert Playfair remarks, ever signed between England and a foreign power.

"At one time 40,000 Christian slaves were in bondage in Algeria, of all the nations of Europe, many of them men of rank, learning and piety and all of them suffering daily the most cruel hardships, starvation and torture. One would have expected the Christian nations to join forces for one object at least and wipe this puny pirate state off the earth, yet for 500 years Barbary held them at bay.

"Just as the old sailors' chanty about 'the coast of the wild Barbaree' took its origin in the terrors of that coast, so the religious order of the Fathers of the Redemption was originally founded to collect alms for the ransom of the Algerian slaves, and many of its members, with perhaps the noblest Christian charity on record, voluntarily shared the lot of the captives for the comfort they could give and the services they could render in negotiations of ransom.

"One ghost of all these unhappy thousands takes literally concrete shape. An Arab Christian named Geronimo, taken as a boy by Spanish soldiers and educated by the vicar general, was captured by the pirates during a raid. As a renegade he was, of course, the subject of the utmost persecution, and when no inducement or suffering could make him apostatize he was at length offered by the dey the choice of being thrown alive into a mold of concrete which formed part of the foundation of a new bastion or of embracing Islam. He chose the martyrdom and was flung into the mold with his hands tied behind him and the concrete poured over him. This was in 1569.

"In 1612 a Spanish Benedictine father wrote a history of Algiers in the course of which he narrated at length the martyrdom of Geronimo and described particularly the situation of the bastion in which his body lay. In 1847 a translation of this passage was published in an Algerian newspaper, and in 1853, when the old fortress was destroyed, search was made. Exactly as had been described the skeleton was discovered, and all plaster of Paris being poured into the impression in the cement the figure of the martyr emerged, the hands tied behind it, much as he had been three centuries before. This plaster cast is today in the Bibliotheque musee."

The Pole Star.
Some curious results follow from the precession of the equinoxes. The pole star varies from age to age, for the pole of the equator in its revolution round the pole of the ecliptic must pass different stars in succession. Wherever it points the star nearest is the pole star. When the first catalogue of stars was made the present pole star was twelve degrees from the pole. Gamma Draconis was the pole star 2,000 years ago. The brilliant Vega will be the pole star 12,000 years hence—Harper's.

Blaming the Doctor.
"My doctor says I ought to ride a horse," said the indolent man.

"What for?"
"I don't know. Maybe he's tired of treating me for dyspepsia and wants a broken collar bone for a change."—Washington Star.

If thou hast a loitering servant send him of thy errand just before his dinner.—Fuller.

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An Error in English.
Even the greatest authors now and then make a little slip in their English. Thus Sir Walter Scott in his 'Legend of Montrose' has this sentence: "But ere Montrose could almost see what happened Allan McAulay had rushed past him." The "almost" should come before "ere" in order to express the author's meaning.

The Wash Boiler.
A faucet on the wash boiler is said to be an excellent thing. Instead of lifting out the clothes after boiling them open the faucet and let the boiling suds drain into a tub or pail. The clothes may be more easily removed to the rinsing tub after the boiling water has been drawn off. A plumber will be able to fit a faucet to a boiler at small expense.

Lovers' Presents in Spain.
Spanish lovers present their fiancées with fans on which they have written the most impassioned poetry, embroidered garters with love mottoes woven in silk and innumerable boxes of sweets. Engagement rings are not given, the bride elect receiving instead a gold medal, which she wears suspended from a chain around her neck.

Taking a Chance.
"Is that picture one of the old masters you were telling me about?" asked Mr. Cumrox.
"Yes," replied the art dealer. "It is a genuine treasure—absolutely authentic."
"I'll buy it. I already have three just like it, and somewhere in the bunch I'm liable to hit the original."—Washington Star.

The Most Accurate Frontier.
As an instance of the jealousy existing in the relations between Norway and Sweden it may be noted that the boundary line between the two countries is the most minutely exact in Europe. In every parish touched by the line there is deposited an elaborate plan which is renewed every ten years, the whole of the work of surveying, etc., being carefully repeated each time.

Frail Human Nature.
The judge was in a rage. "I hear," he thundered, "that bets have been made on the result of this case. I won't have such a state of things. All gambling must be stopped within the jurisdiction of this court."
"But you a fiver it can't be done!" said the counsel for the defense.
"Put up your money," said the judge, reaching for his purse.—Pearson's.

At Her Word.
"Why do you not come to me for advice any more?" said the medium to her former regular customer.
"Well," said he, "the last time I was there you told me that if I wished to save enough to get married on I must stop spending money foolishly, and I took you at your word."—New York Press.

One Family of 20,000,000.
The rapidity with which rats multiply is the main reason why man appears to make so little headway in their destruction. It is calculated that a single pair of rats and their progeny, breeding without interruption and suffering no losses, would in three years increase to more than 20,000,000.—Baker's Weekly.

Realistic.
Mrs. Brush—Did you see my husband's painting, "The Country Road," at the exhibition?
Mrs. Painter—No, I did not. Was it good?
"Why, it was so natural they had to oil the road every day to keep the dust from going on everything."—Yonkers Statesman.

Landlord and Tenant.
Visitor (at poorhouse)—Where did that fine looking pauper come from?
Superintendent—The city. He owns the St. Fashion flats.
"My goodness! Why is he here?"
"He charges such high rents that they have been empty since the second year."

"Hum! He seems to be on familiar footing with a good many of the other paupers."
"Yes; they are the people who were his tenants the first year."—Buffalo News.

Napoleon Before the Convention.
When Barras introduced Napoleon to the convention as a fit man to be entrusted with the command the president asked:
"Are you willing to undertake the defense of the convention?"
"Yes," was the reply.
After a time the president continued, "Are you aware of the magnitude of the undertaking?"
"Perfectly," replied Napoleon, fixing his eyes upon his questioner, "and I am in the habit of accomplishing that which I undertake."

LIGHTEN YOUR CARES.
Quick is the succession of human events. The cares of today are seldom the cares of tomorrow, and when we lie down at night we may safely say to most of our troubles, "Ye have done your worst, and we shall meet no more."—Cowper.

The Route.
"Washington seems to have finally made a conquest of that Scandimovian girl. Wonder how it all came about."
"The first time she saw him she gave him her eye; the next time they met she gave him her arm. It wasn't long before he was holding both of her hands. Soon after that he won her heart, and she lost her head and gave herself to him completely."—Judge.

AMIGHTY WARRIOR

General Dumas Was a Colossus In Size and In Heroism.

HIS AMAZING FEATS OF ARMS.

The Herculean Father of the Famous Novelist Had the Strength of Samson and the Valor of Horatius—His Son Was a Chip of the Old Block.

General Alexandre Dumas, the father of the celebrated French novelist, was a mulatto of herculean build, who was renowned as a tremendous fighter and as a man of marvelous bodily strength.

It is generally believed that he was the model from which his son drew the character of Portos in the "Three Guardsmen"—the sometimes vainglorious, sometimes heroic, but always lovable Portos.

Of the recklessness and daring of General Dumas there can be no doubt, and evidently fear to him was an absolutely unknown quantity. "I had long thought the feats of arms ascribed to him in La Vendee, Italy, and Egypt rather apocryphal, too good to be true," writes M. Jules Claretie in a French paper. "They seemed to combine in one the tours de force of Portos and the escapades of Chicot. But one day when I had promised to write a short life of the man his grandson put into my hands all the papers relating to the soldier's career, and I then saw that I had before me a real epic, describing a sequence of glorious actions of undoubted authenticity.

"It was, for example, established by official documents that General Dumas, standing, a solitary colossus, at the end of the bridge of Birken, in the Tyrol, did, like Horatius of old, dispute the passage of it with a cloud of Austrians, whom he sabered and shot one after the other until he had broken his sword and used his last cartridge, and that he then did convert the body of an enemy into a battering ram.

"Again, at the theater one day he was in a box with a lady who had won his affections when a gentleman of the court, pointing at him, remarked to the lady, 'So, marchioness, you have got your negre here.' At which the mulatto, without a word, seized the man by his collar, lifted him from his seat and threw him across the footlights on to the stage.

"His son inherited the father's muscles. Traveling one year in the south of France for the sake of collecting some amusing 'impressions,' he came to Avignon by diligence with the intention of enjoying the well known view of the silhouette of the papal palace. The diligence, on stopping, was surrounded by porters, who tried to clutch the traveler's luggage. Dumas insisted on carrying his own valise, and this provoked some insolent remarks from the porters.

"Look," said one, "at the big lout who won't let a poor fellow earn a living!"

"What's so astonishing in that?" replied another. "He's a nigger. Nature intended him for a drudge."

"The son did not hesitate to imitate his father's example. He put down his valise, seized one of the porters, took him by the waist, carried him to the parapet of the bridge and held him out over the river, saying:

"Give me your word that you are not the assassin of Marshal Brune?"

"Marshal Brune was assassinated at Avignon, in the white terror, 1815."

"I? But, monsieur—"

"Swear, I tell you, that you did not assassinate Marshal Brune or I will throw you into the Rhone!"

"The man's face became as white as a sheet, and he gasped out:

"I will swear, monsieur, by all the saints, I did not assassinate him."

"All right," said Dumas, and he threw the wretched man on to the bridge, took up his valise and went on his way, smiling, leaving the porters gasping with wonder.

"To return to the old general, he was coming back from Egypt when his ship was surrounded by some English vessels.

"'Fight to the last,' was the order, and when shot and shell are exhausted blow up the ship sky high."

"All very well, but he could swim and others couldn't. To equalize matters Dumas got two cannon balls, put them into his pockets and said with a laugh:

"Now I shall go all the quicker to the bottom."

"But it was not to be. He was taken prisoner and thrown into a foul dungeon at Naples, from which he only emerged with his health shattered and his magnificent strength dwindled to the vanishing point."

Eating With the Knife.
It is strange that the Italian should have been the first to use the fork of civilization, for he is now the foremost of all men to suppress it in favor of the knife. In the restaurants of no other nation do men eat so horribly with their knives as in the Italians. In fact, it is only in England that the brilliant action is never seen. In Germany you may still watch an old gentleman cutting his portion up diligently with his knife and fork before beginning to eat. Having done so, he puts one of these implements away and falls to, and the one he puts away is the fork. But for the general use of the knife there is nothing like a first class restaurant in Venice.—London Chronicle.

If we do not reason we are bigots; if we cannot we are fools; if we dare not we are slaves.

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