

## MOSBY'S PRESENT

A Gift and Message That Ticked  
Lincoln's Sense of Humor.

### RETURNING THE COMPLIMENT.

An Equivalent That Was Appreciated  
and Treasured by the Confederate  
Colonel—An Episode Born of the  
Capture of General Stoughton.

Colonel John S. Mosby, the southern  
cavalry leader in the war between the  
states, accumulated many mementoes  
of that long and bloody struggle, but  
none which he treasured more jealously  
than a lock of dark hair wrapped in a  
faded yellow scrap of newspaper. The  
hair was cut from the head of Abrah-  
ham Lincoln. It was Lincoln's own  
hand which cut it, and the great war  
president himself who sent it.

In the spring of 1863 the Army of the  
Potomac lay along the north bank of  
the Rappahannock, about fifty miles  
south of Washington. The intervening  
country was, of course, in the posses-  
sion of the Union troops. Off in the  
recesses of the Blue Ridge mountains,  
about thirty miles westward, was  
Colonel Mosby, with a body of picked  
southern cavaliers, seeking to do  
what injury he could to the Federal  
outposts and lines of communication.

About the middle of March there en-  
camped at Fairfax-Court House, a vil-  
lage of about 500 inhabitants, halfway  
between Washington and the army on  
the Rappahannock, a force of several  
thousand Union troops under General  
Stoughton.

From a military point of view, his  
camp at Fairfax was nearly as safe as  
Boston. Between his own force and  
the southern army, under General Lee,  
lay General Hooker's great Army of  
the Potomac. Even Colonel Mosby's  
small force—less than a hundred men  
—was thirty miles away.

Nevertheless, Colonel Mosby deter-  
mined to capture General Stoughton.  
Selecting twenty of his best troopers,  
he started one drizzly March afternoon  
for Stoughton's camp. It was after  
midnight when he ran into the first  
picket, who was easily captured in the  
darkness. And thus, taking picket af-  
ter picket in the black night, Colonel  
Mosby made his way without alarm  
into the village, until he entered Gen-  
eral Stoughton's bedchamber.

The unhappy officer was compelled  
to dress and accompany his captors.  
The pitch black, rainy night and the  
fact that the men of both commands  
wore rubber capes of the same style  
rendered it impossible for the prison-  
ers. Stoughton included, to determine  
the number of the enemy. With half  
a hundred prisoners and a hundred  
horses, Colonel Mosby quietly made his  
way out of the camp and was soon be-  
yond reach of pursuit.

The adventure created a stir in mili-  
tary quarters. Stoughton was roundly  
censured for allowing himself thus to  
be stolen from the midst of his troops,  
although he was in no wise to blame.

President Lincoln, whose sense of  
humor nothing could quench, remark-  
ed, when told of the affair, that he did  
not mind losing the general, but the  
hundred horses was a serious matter.  
"I can make a general with the  
scratches of a pen," he said dryly, "but  
I can't make horses."

Shortly afterward Colonel Mosby,  
with a few companions, was recon-  
nitering in the vicinity of Washing-  
ton. On the road he encountered an  
old Dutch market woman taking her  
garden truck in her cart to peddle it  
through the Washington streets. Col-  
onel Mosby stopped and questioned her.  
Noticing a pair of scissors at her belt  
and having heard of President Lin-  
coln's comments on General Stough-  
ton's capture, he said:

"Do you know Mr. Lincoln?"

"Yah," replied the old woman. "Seen  
him often. I have."

Taking the scissors, Colonel Mosby  
cut off a lock of his hair, and wrap-  
ping it in a piece of paper handed it  
to the old woman, saying:

"I'm Colonel Mosby. When you get  
to Washington go to the White House  
and tell the president that Colonel  
Mosby sent him this lock of his hair

and say also that he is coming over  
into Washington some night to get a  
lock of the president's hair."

The old market woman went her  
way, and Colonel Mosby rode back  
and forgot the incident. Some weeks  
later, however, when making another  
reconnaissance in that neighborhood,  
the old woman halted him from a road-  
side cottage. Hurrying into the cot-  
tage, she brought forth a scrap of  
newspaper and delivered it to Colonel  
Mosby.

"Here is a lock of President  
Lincoln's hair," she said. "He told me  
to say to you that he had rather you  
would not come over to see him and  
that he send it to you by me. Here it  
is!"—Youth's Companion.

### MARK TWAIN'S HOME

Its Charm and Hospitality and the  
Motto It Lived Up To.

Many frequenters have tried to ex-  
press the charm of Mark Twain's  
home. Few have succeeded, for it lay  
not in the house itself nor in its  
furnishings, beautiful as these things  
were, but in the personality of its oc-  
cupants; the daily round of their lives,  
the atmosphere which they uncon-  
sciously created. From its wide en-  
trance hall and tiny jewel-like con-  
servatory below to the billiard room at  
the top of the house it seemed perfect-  
ly appointed, serenely ordered and full  
of welcome.

The home of one of the most un-  
usual and unaccountable personalities  
in the world was filled with gentleness  
and peace. It was Mrs. Clemens who  
was chiefly responsible. She was no  
longer the half timid, inexperienced  
girl he had married. Association,  
study and travel had brought her  
knowledge and confidence. When the  
great ones of the world came to visit  
America's most picturesque literary  
figure, she gave welcome to them and  
filled her place at his side with such  
sweet grace that those who came to  
pay their duties to him often returned  
to pay still greater devotion to his  
companion.

William Dean Howells, so often a  
visitor there, once said to the writer:

"Words cannot express Mrs. Clemens—  
her fineness; her delicate, wonder-  
ful tact." And again, "She was not  
only a beautiful soul, but a woman of  
singular intellectual power."

There were always visitors in the  
Clemens home. Above the mantel in  
the library was written, "The orna-  
ment of a house is the friends that  
frequent it," and the Clemens home  
never lacked of these ornaments, and  
they were of the world's best. No dis-  
tinguished person came to America  
that did not pay a visit to Hartford  
and Mark Twain. Generally it was  
not merely a call, but a stay of days.  
The welcome was always genuine, the  
entertainment unstinted.—Albert Big-  
elow Paine in St. Nicholas.

### Domestic Strategy.

Husband—I ain't ready to go out  
yet. Wife—But I am, and we must go  
immediately. Husband—But my dear,  
your hat is not on straight. Wife—  
Dear me! Isn't it? Wait a minute till  
I go to my room and put it right.  
Exit wife for half an hour, and her  
shrewd husband completes his work.

### Argentina.

If the country has the same average  
potentiality for producing food as land  
similarly situated in North America or  
Europe, it would seem that Argentina  
can support 100,000,000 people easily,  
as only small parts of it lie outside  
the temperate zone.

### The Point of View.

"The darkest cloud has a silver lin-  
ing," remarked the optimist.  
"But it is a dark cloud, just the  
same," insisted the pessimist.—Ex-  
change.

### Silly Fellow.

"You are the only girl that can make  
me happy."  
"Are you sure?"  
"Yes; I have tried all the others."—  
Philadelphia Record.

### Feminine Architecture.

"My wife has planned a gem of a  
place."  
"What's her idea?"  
"An eight room house with 132 clo-  
sets."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## THE EMERALD ISLE

In Area It Is a Little Smaller Than  
Our State of Maine.

### ITS SLUMP IN POPULATION.

One of the Few Sections of the Civil-  
ized World That Have Decreased in  
Numbers in the Past Century—Its  
Beautiful Lakes and Rivers.

The historical and political impor-  
tance of Ireland has created in the  
minds of many Americans an exagger-  
ated idea of the island's physical pro-  
portions and the density of its popu-  
lation.

The whole of Ireland embraces an  
area slightly less than the state of  
Maine, but with a population six times  
as dense. In comparison with the gov-  
erning country it is three-fifths as large  
as England and Wales, with one-ninth  
the population. The island is one of  
the very few sections of the civilized  
world where the population has shown  
a marked decrease during the last cen-  
tury.

The first census of the island, taken  
in 1821, recorded a population almost  
30 per cent larger than at the present  
time, while the census of 1941 showed  
the high water mark of more than  
8,000,000, nearly twice the present popu-  
lation. This remarkable decrease, due  
largely to emigration, began after the  
famine brought about by the destruc-  
tive disease which attacked the potato  
crop of 1845. This calamity resulted  
in the withdrawal of more than a mil-  
lion acres from cultivation within two  
years.

Incidentally the potato, which has  
played such an important role in the  
life of Ireland during the last 300  
years, is not indigenous to the island,  
but was one of the food gold mines  
discovered by the Spaniards in their  
conquest of Peru. The country is in-  
debted to Sir Walter Raleigh for her  
"Irish" potatoes, as it was he who  
brought them from what is now North  
Carolina and planted them on his es-  
tate near Cork in 1585.

Ireland lies on the western rim of  
what was once a part of continental  
Europe. It has numerous mountains,  
the highest being the McGillicuddy  
reeks (3,414 feet) in the Killarney re-  
gion, but there is no mountain chain or  
elevated "backbone." There is a more-  
or-less well defined plain, however, the  
distinguishing feature of which is the  
bogs—the black bog producing the fi-  
mous peat fuel, differentiated from the  
brown bogs of the mountains. If the  
whole island were brought to a mean  
level it would rise 400 feet above the  
sea.

The lakes, or loughs, of Ireland are  
among its most widely appreciated  
physical characteristics, their scenic  
beauty being the inspiration of poets,  
painters and musicians. Nor have the  
Irish rivers been overlooked in ap-  
praisals of the island's beauties. The  
Shannon, which flows for 250 miles,  
is the longest water course in the Unit-  
ed Kingdom. It is navigated by large  
steamers for half its length and is con-  
nected with Dublin by means of the  
Grand and the Royal canals.

Although coal is found in most of the  
thirty-two counties into which the is-  
land is divided and there is consider-  
able iron ore, mining is not an impor-  
tant industry. Gold was being mined  
in a modest way in County Wicklow at  
the time of the rebellion of 1798, but  
the works were destroyed and the  
source of the metal has never been re-  
discovered.

Agriculture and stock raising are the  
chief occupations of the inhabitants.  
At one time the woolen manufactures  
of the island were formidable rivals of  
English factories, but hostile legisla-  
tion gave the industry a check from  
which it has never recovered. As the  
Irish have raised fax for centuries,  
the manufacture of linen early became  
one of the important industries of the  
country. Irish whiskey is an important  
article of export, and one of the largest  
breweries in the world is located at  
Dublin.

Shipbuilding in the great yards at  
Belfast is one of the most widely  
known Irish activities, and the deep  
sea and coast fisheries afford a liveli-  
hood for many thousands.

Thanks to the temperate influence of  
the west winds from the Atlantic, the  
thermometer rarely reaches freezing  
point in winter, while the average for  
a summer day is 60 degrees.

At Torr Head on the north the dis-  
tance to Scotland (Mull of Cantire) is  
only thirteen and one-half miles. The  
Giant's Causeway, a short distance to  
the east of this point, is the outcrop-  
ping basaltic formation which in a  
former age joined the two islands.—  
National Geographic Society Bulletin.

### Equally Effective.

"My daughter cannot exist without  
at least three servants," said the proud  
mother to her future son-in-law.  
"Leave that to me," answered the  
young man.  
"But will you be able to provide  
them for her?"  
"No, but I will be able to prove con-  
clusively that she can exist with only  
one."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

### Locating the Blame.

Father (to daughter's young man)—  
My gas bill is greatly increased this  
quarter. Do you know the reason?  
Young Man—Perhaps there is some-  
thing wrong with the meter. Father—  
That's just the cause. You meet 'er  
far too often.—London Telegraph.

The elect are those who will and the  
non-elect are those who won't.—Henry  
Ward Beecher.

## METHODS OF EDUCATION.

A Plea For Fewer Studies and Longer  
Time Devoted to Them.

The defect of American education is  
diffuseness. The children are bothered  
and confused by being dragged across  
the surfaces of too many studies in a  
day. All of our schools, both public  
and private, and all our universities  
and colleges suffer from this same na-  
tional vice, which is a vice in the  
American character, a weakness in  
our temperament. It ought to be met  
and corrected in every field of life.

What we need is depth. Depth can  
be imparted through the teaching of  
anything. It can be imparted through  
Latin grammar, through handwriting,  
through carpenter work, through arith-  
metic or history. The one element re-  
quired is time. Depth cannot be im-  
parted quickly or in many subjects  
at once. Leisure is necessary—a slow-  
ing down, a taking of things, not  
easily, but slowly, determinedly, pa-  
tiently, as if there were plenty of  
time and nothing else counted.

This is the road to rapid and bril-  
liant work, and there is no other. The  
smallest children should be set on this  
road and guided and governed and  
helped and slaved over by the best of  
your masters. One subject understood  
means the world mastered. My friend  
Frederick Mather of Yale puts the  
thing as follows:

"If one of our small colleges should  
after the manner of the English col-  
leges, devote itself to a few old fash-  
ioned subjects, such as Latin and  
Greek, and some kind of history and  
philosophy, and should really teach  
these things, its graduates would soon  
be so famous and so eminent that  
banks and railroads would be clamor-  
ing for them at the college doors."

The epigram summarizes the present  
needs in American education.—John J.  
Chapman in Atlantic Monthly.

### GARRICK'S MOBILE FACE.

Its Varying Expressions Put Gains-  
borough In a Fit of Temper.

At an entertainment at which Gains-  
borough and the famous actor David  
Garrick were present an ardent ad-  
mirer of the great artist declared, ac-  
cording to "Bibliothek der Unterhal-  
tung und des Wissens," that Gains-  
borough had never failed to take a per-  
son's likeness in a portrait, no matter  
how difficult the subject might be.  
Garrick thereupon asserted that Gains-  
borough could not paint his likeness  
and begged to be allowed to sit for his  
portrait. Gainsborough, pleased at the  
commission and expecting to find it  
very interesting to paint the actor's  
expressive countenance, gladly con-  
sented. Garrick then made a secret  
wager with the artist's friends that he  
could prove to them that there was  
one face at least that Gainsborough  
could not paint.

The results of the first sitting were  
very satisfactory to the complacent  
artist. At the second sitting, however,  
Gainsborough was made uncomfortable  
and nervous at finding it necessary  
to make several alterations in his work.  
At the third sitting his displeasure be-  
came extreme when, on comparing the  
half completed work with Garrick's  
face, he saw that the two bore so little  
resemblance to each other that the  
portrait had almost to be repainted.  
When Garrick appeared for the fourth  
time, with the most innocent expres-  
sion imaginable, and begged the paint-  
er to begin work Gainsborough, thor-  
oughly angry, broke out:

"I've no use for you! You can ape  
thousands of faces and never have one  
of your own!"

Smiling, Garrick left the studio to  
announce to the artist's friends that he  
had won the wager.

### Hunting the Elusive Spark.

To find a dead spark plug I take an  
ordinary hammer and hold the wooden  
handle in my hand, says James Atcher-  
son in the Farm and Home. Laying  
the face on the cylinder head, I bring  
the claws slowly toward the head of  
the plug. If the plug is alive the spark  
will leap across when the right gap is  
reached. If no spark is made the plug  
is dead. This method does away with  
the danger of receiving a shock, as you  
are holding the wooden handle.

### Imprisoned by Her Tongue.

In translating the Bible for the Zu-  
lus and for some other aboriginal peo-  
ples it is necessary to have two ver-  
sions, one for the women and one for  
the men. The Zulu law compels a  
married woman to cut herself off from  
her father-in-law and all her hus-  
band's male relations. She is not al-  
lowed to pronounce their names even  
mentally. As a result, there is a dis-  
tinct dialect among Zulu women.—  
Christian Herald.

### Earthquake Regions.

The most shaken countries of the  
world are Italy, Japan, the Pacific  
slope of South America, Java, Sicily  
and Asia Minor. The lands most free  
from earthquakes are Russia, Canada,  
Scandinavia and Africa. The United  
States and Australia are to a large ex-  
tent unshaken by earthquakes save on  
the Pacific (in the United States) and  
in a few localities in the island con-  
tinent.—New York American.

### The Difficulty.

"My wife's mad with me and has  
gone on a hunger strike."  
"Then let her go hungry till she  
comes to her senses. Why should you  
worry?"  
"Because I'm the one that's going  
hungry."—Baltimore American.

### Accomplished.

Randall—After twenty-five years of  
married life she loves her husband as  
much as ever. Rogers—Yes, and she  
annoys him in other ways, too.—Life.

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