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THE VEILED PROPHET.

He Was the Most Noted Impostor of the Middle Ages.

The celebrated "Velled Prophet" of history was a Moslem fanatic whose real name was Haken Ibn Hashem. He was born about the middle of the eighth century and became the most noted impostor of the middle ages. He pretended that he was an embodiment of the spirit of the "living God" and, being very proficient in jugglery (which the ignorant mistook for the power to work miracless, soon drew an immense number of followers around him. He always wore a gold mask, claiming that he did so to protect the mortals of this earth, who, he said, could not look upon his face and live.

At last, after thousands had quitted the city and even left the employ of the Callph al Mobili to Join the fanatleal movement, an army was sent against the "Veiled Prophet," forcing him to flee for safety to the castle at north of the Oxus. Finally, Keh, when ultimate defeat was certain, the prophet killed and burned his whole family and then threw himself into the flames, being entirely consumed, except his hair, which was kept in a museum at Bagdad until the time of the crusades. He promised his faithful followers that he would reappear to them in the future dressed in white and riding a white horse.

WANTED HIS PAY.

The Husky Jamaican Didn't Care to Work For Nothing.

An English naval officer tells of being on a war vessel which took provisions to St. Kitts, one of the British West India Islands. A hurricane had left many of the inhabitants in a destitute or even starving condition. Hungry crowds gathered at the wharf, but refused to help unload the food that was to be given to them unless paid for their work.

A similar story sheds light on the Jamalcan negro. Some years ago a hurricane devastated the island, and a large relief sum was raised, much of it in England and the United States. The committee having charge of this fund sent a wagon load of lumber to a busky black man whose house had been scattered over the parish. He and his family were living in a rude shack, made out of odds and ends. "What's that fur?" he asked of the men who were unloading the material in front of his patch of ground. "That's for your new house." WDS the reply. "It's from the relief fund and won't cost you anything." "Who's goin' to build mah house?" "You are, if anybody does."

"Who's goin' to pay me fur mah work?"-Waynesboro fleconi.

An Old Garret on a Stormy Day. I know no nobler forage ground for a romantic, venturesome, mischlevons boy than the garret of an old family mansion on a day of storm. It is a perfect field of chivalry. The heavy rafters and dashing rain, the plies of spare mattresses to carouse upon, the big trunks to hide in, the old white coats and hats hanging in obscure corners like ghosts, are great! And it is so far away from the old lady who keeps rule in the nursery that there is no possible risk of a scolding for twisting off the fringe of a rug. There is no baby in the garret to wake up. There is no "company" in the garret to be disturbed by the noise. There is no crochety old uncle or grandma. with their everiasting "Boys, boys!" and then a look of horror .- Donald G.

BURN YOUR BRIDGES. When All Retreat is Cut Off, Then You Must Go Ahead.

Young men often make the mistake when they start on an important anderiaking of leaving open a way of retreat if things go too hard, says Orison Swett Marden in Success Magasine. No one can call out his greatest reserves, do the greatest thing possible to him, while he knows that if the battle gets too hot he has a line of retreat still left open. Only when there is no hope of excape will an army fight with that spirit of desperation which gives no quarter.

Many a great general in his march on the enemy has burned his bridges behind him, cut off his only possible retreat, for the bracing, encouraging effect upon binnelf and his army, because he knew that men only call out their greatest reserves of power when all retreat is cut off and when fighting desperately for that which they count dearer than life. We are so made that as long as

there is a chance to retreat, as long as there is a chance to retreat, as long as there are bridges behind us, we are tempted to turn back when the great test comes.

"Will you hold this fort?" asked General Rosecrans of General Pierce at Stone river. "I will try, general." "Will you hold this fort?" "I will die in the attempt." "That won't do. Look me in the eye, sir, and tell me if you will hold this position." "I will?" said General Pierce, and he did.

THEY SEPARATED.

But the Parting Was More Strenuous Than Jim Expected.

A man named Roynor when gold hunting in Alaska had as partner a venerable prospector, who went about habitually with his boot legs stuffed full of dynamite sticks. The old man had a pleasantly casual way of filling the stove oven with these sticks in order that they might thaw out there. Sometimes, too, he forgot them, which was Imprudent, to say the least. Roynor was not at all of a timorous disposition, but the ancient prospector's reckless carelessness troubled his nerves. He remonstrated with him repeatedly and strenuously, but his protest did not seem to have the slightest effect. "Jim," he said finally when driven to desperation. "if you can't be more careful with that dynamite we'll have to separate."

That alght as he approached the shack a terrific concussion rent the air and knocked him insensible. When he recovered consciousness he perceiv_d one of the aged pros scious legs lying near. He stared ... it a moment meditatively.

"Well, Jim," he remarked at last sadly. "I guess we've managed to separate all right, particularly you, Jim?" --Minneapolis Journal.

A Picture of Eternity.

The negro preacher is noted for his enthusiasm and his picturesque, almost poetic, way of expressing things. In "Life In Oid Virginia" J. J. McDonaid tells about a colored minister who was conducting a revival without much success. At last, however, he awakened his congregation by asking:

"Does yo' know what eternity is Well, I tell yo'.

"If one of dem H'l' sparrows what yo' see round yo' garden bushes was to dip his bill in de 'Lantic ocean an' take one hop a day an' hop 'cross de country an' put dat drop of water into de 'Cific ocean an' den he hop hack to de 'Lantic ocean-jes' one hop a dayan' if he keep dat hoppin' up twell de



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NOW ON HAND



Mitchell.

Jack Sheppard as a Text. Jack Sheppard had a great hold upon the imagination of the people of his time. The fact that 200,000 people witnessed his execution at Tyburn on Nov. 18, 1724. "upon the tree that bears twelve times a yeare" is some witness to his grim popularity. But one of the strangest tributes ever paid him was the sermon preached upon him in a London church.

"Oh, that ye were all like Jack Sheppard!" began the preacher, to the stupefaction of his congregation. He went on to draw a parallel between things of the flesh and those of the soul and to point out that the genius shown in housebreaking might have been bestowed upon "picking the locks of the heart with the nail of repentance."--London Standard.

Sure on One Point.

"Do you believe that great wealth has a tendency to keep a man out of heaven?" queried the party who was addicted to the conundrum habit. "I am not prepared to express an opinion on that subject," answered the student of human nature, "but I know that great wealth has kept many a man out of the pealtentiary."-Chicago News.

Stuttered Out the Child's Name. Flainnery-II seems his full name is Dinnis K. K. C.Casey, What's all thim K's fur? Finnegan - Nothin'. Twas the fault of his godfather stutterin' which he tried to say "Dinnis Casey."-Philadelphia Ledger.

Also it Uses Up Gold, "Did you ever notice how a ring is like the marriage obligation?" "No. How do you mean?" "A ring is more easily put on than it is taken off."-Boston Transcript.

Musical Note. A newspaper says of a recent operatic performance. "The ladies, the baritone and the bass were good, and so were the tenor's intentions!"

Every good deed performed is not only a present pleasure, but a support for the future. wouldn't be break o' day in eternity." "Dar, now," said one of the brethren, "yo' see for yo'sef how long eternity is."

A Tribute to Woman.

When everything around a man staggers and wavers, when all seems dark and dim in the far distance of the unknown future, when the world seems but a picture or a fairy tale and the universe a chimera, when the whole structure of ideas vanishes in smoke and all certainties become enigmatical. what is the only permanent thing which may still be his? The faithful heart of a woman. There he may rest his head; there he will renew his strength for the battle of life, increase his faith in Providence and, if need be, find strength to die in peace with a benediction on his fips.-Henri Frederic Amiel.

Easy Marks.

"Talk erbont yore easy marks," sold Uncle Silas Geehaw, who had been passing a week in the city, "us rubes ain't in it with them air teown chaps." "Did yew sell 'em enny gold bricks, Silas?" queried old Daddy Squashneck. "Naw, I didn't," answered Uncle Siins, "hat I seed a feller peddlin' arthficial ice-hed th' sign right on his wagon-au' blamed of th' chumps did not buy it for th' real thing, by grass?"-Chicago News.

Lots of Nerve.

Farmer's Son-My father sent me over to horrow your horse and cart. She-Goodness! Why. he already has all our tools, our axes, our hayrakes and"-

A Baser Motive.

"Yes, he played the last two acts with a broken wrist." "Herolsm, ch?"

"Not at all. He was afraid to give his understudy a chance."-Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Sooner or later the world comes around to see the truth and do the right.-Hillard.

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