

A Legend

By F. TOWNSEND SMITH

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When I was abroad last summer I visited a German American friend of mine who had got rich in America making beer and with the proceeds bought one of those ruined castles on the Rhine, repaired it and spent his summers there. We were sitting one afternoon in a room facing the west. The weather being warm, the blinds were closed to keep out the sun. Seeing what I supposed to be a silver coin on the floor, I arose, went to it and was about to pick it up when I saw that it was one of those little round sun images that will come through a chink. Shuster, my host, laughed at me and said:

"That reminds me of a legend about this castle. It was formerly owned by Baron Hugner. The story goes that the baron was a great gambler. When he succeeded to the castle a lot of money went with it. You see, it lies on one of two hills, and a road has always led between them down to the river. This road was frequented by merchants who took goods down to the Rhine for shipment by water. When the baron saw a party of them in the distance he had only to swoop down on them, levy a tribute of some 25 to 50 per cent of the value of their goods for toll, and there you are."

"This baron I was telling you about—Hubert Hugner was his name—had inherited the property just about the time that people got virtuous, and it wasn't considered any more the way for a nobleman to rob. He did it after this by serving the sovereign, and when his king pounced upon a state or a duchy or something like that the baron got a slice."

"Well, as I was saying, Baron Hugner was rich, a gambler and withal virtuous. He gambled all day, and he gambled all night. Now, the legend has it that the devil had for centuries been interested in the wealth the baron had extorted from the merchants and wanted his share. But he didn't want it in money. He has no use for material, only spiritual things. What he wanted for his share of the plunder was a soul, and the soul he had set his villainous heart on was Baron Hubert Hugner."

"The way the devil managed to get a hold on the baron was through his passion for play. Whenever Hugner gambled the devil stood behind him and so influenced him to make his bets that gradually every bit of the gold that the Hugners had for centuries taken from the merchants went by the board. Then one day when the baron had lost it all the devil came into the room disguised as a Jew and told him that he would discount his note for a large sum without either security or interest. When Hugner came to find out what the devil wanted in lieu of security and interest it was the usual thing Satan hungers for—his soul."

"The transaction was completed, the consideration—the soul—to be delivered six months after date without grace. The baron was furnished with a thousand pieces of gold, with which he went on gambling and gradually recovered all he had lost, getting his financial affairs into a satisfactory condition a few days before his note came due."

"The night before Hugner's soul was to be delivered the baron had a dream. He dreamed that an angel appeared to him and said: 'Tomorrow Satan will claim your soul in lieu of his interest in the plunder exacted in the past by your ancestors from merchants. It is not meet that he should reap this benefit. Tomorrow when he comes for you tell him that you can win money from him without even a piece of money so big as a head of a pin. He will demur to that. Then offer to bet him the soul of your oldest son that you can do what you have said.'"

"When the baron awoke it seemed that he had really seen the angel and received the advice. Hugner was scarcely out of bed before a stranger called and asked to see him. The baron recognized at once the fiend who had called for his soul. With a faint hope he obeyed the instructions of his dream. The devil accepted the challenge, and they sat down before a board used on that day something like faro. The devil dealt and, seeing what he thought was a silver coin on the green, turned up a card that won. With out examining the coin he threw the baron one of equal value."

"I would respectfully call your attention," said the baron, "to the fact that what you thought was a coin is only a round sun spot coming in through a chink in the window blind."

"Upon my word," said the devil, "I believe you are right."

"I think we are quits," pursued the baron, "and my soul is my own."

"The devil answered never a word, but got up from the table, went out of the door and never returned. But that night he sent a fierce storm of lightning and hail that partly destroyed the castle, and it had never been occupied till I came here myself."

My host assured me that all of the people at the foot of the Schloss knew of this legend and that most of them believed it.

It is these legends that make the ruins of German castles more interesting than they would be were they mere piles of stone and mortar. I spent quite awhile with my friend the baron, and my fascination for his home steadily grew till my departure.

HOGS THRIVE ON GREEN PASTURES.

Many a man has made money in feeding cheap feed who would fail absolutely if the value of his feed increased 10 cents per bushel.

The reason for this is that the real cost of production is not known to him, and he is constantly wasting feed, but does not know it. He is making some profit and does not see any necessity in figuring any closer. The hog grower of the present faces a condition that demands his closest attention and most intelligent application. How to produce a pound of pork at the least possible cost—that is the question. Of course corn is still the staple and cheapest hog feed, but it must be supplemented by other feeds



With the advance of cold weather the hog misses the pastures of alfalfa, clover or peas on which he thrives. Then the farmer who has a late field of rape reaps the profits of his foresight.

to make the most of it. First and foremost of these supplementary feeds is green forage. Many kinds of plants afford some of the desired elements, but the legumes, such as clovers, alfalfa, field peas, etc., are the great balancers for corn. Experiment has proved that alfalfa pasture with corn as an exclusive feed produced pork considerably cheaper than when 25 per cent shorts or 75 per cent skim milk was fed. Alfalfa pasture seems to be par excellence for a hog, and it should be grown where possible.

Clover is nearly as good a feed for hogs at all seasons as alfalfa. While concentrates, such as shorts, tankage, oilmeal, bonemeal, etc., will nearly always cheapen and balance a corn or other carbonaceous ration, it should be borne in mind that far the cheapest gains are made where pasture is the main balancer. Where some of the legumes are not found to be adapted rape will prove a profitable forage plant, and each acre of good rape is worth a ton of grain for hog feed.

Wounds In Horses' Feet.

If the horse steps on a nail do not pour turpentine in the puncture. Such treatment only tends to increase the pain and inflammation. Always bear in mind that the foot cannot swell like other parts to accommodate itself to the results of inflammation. This is the reason that punctures or injuries to the feet are so painful. Soothing treatment is always recommended. Enlarge the opening made by the nail with a knife completely through the sole of the foot and apply linseed meal or bran poultice every twenty-four hours, but not poultice longer than three days at a time, for if prolonged too much softening of the hoof is likely to be the result. The shoe should in all cases be removed and the horse given complete rest and reduced diet until recovery takes place.

The sheep that both feeds and clothes us, besides adding tremendously to the fertility of the land, is bound to be one of the biggest economic agricultural factors. Let us have fewer dogs and more sheep.

Ensilage For Beef Cattle.

We feed the ensilage to our herd of Angus cows and to the young stock and finish out the steers on corn and grass in the summer, writes an Illinois breeder. We turn the cattle on shock fodder until the middle of January or the 1st of February and then give them ensilage and good oat straw that has been thrashed into the barn or hay, and if we have plenty of ensilage and other rough feed we do not feed any grain. Last year the snow came early, so we ran short of rough feed and had to feed some corn, too, but it is the first time for years that anything but the steers and calves were fed any grain.

Corn Chop For Horses.

There has been complaint that corn chop fed to horses induces gastric colic, but it is claimed by the Colorado experiment station that if the corn chop be fed with bran or cut hay then there will usually be no ill effects, because the material will not lie compactly in the stomach, and as a result the stomach juices can get at all parts of the feed and digest it thoroughly.

The Best Dairy Methods.

The best dairymen now practice intense methods with their cows, making them yield the greatest amount of milk possible by liberal feeding and the best of shelter and other care.

STAR GEM OF CEYLON.

The Asteria Brought Health and Fortune to Its Wearer.

Familiar to some of the ancient writers and credited with supernatural powers, the asteria, or star gem, was highly valued for the benefits supposed to be conferred on the wearer. Its bright six rayed star, ever changing and shifting with every play of light and especially shooting out its flames in the direct sunlight, would seem to be something more than an ordinary crystal, and to the superstitious mind it could readily be believed to embody some tutelary spirit.

The particular virtue attributed to this gem was the conferring upon the wearer of "health and good fortune" when worn as an amulet, and to those fortunate to be born in the month of April, with which the stone was associated or represented, the wearer was insured from all evil.

The star stone is found principally in Ceylon, invariably in soil peculiar to rubies and sapphires. Indeed, it is composed of the same constituent "corundum," its chatoyant, or star rays, being caused by the pressure of what the natives call "silk." It is found in many different colors, from pale blue, pink and white to deep dark blue, ruby and purple. The blue are termed sapphire stars, the red ruby stars. It is always cut en cabochon, the star dividing into six rays at the apex. It is next in hardness to the diamond.

MARITIME EXPRESSIONS.

Used in a Metaphorical Sense They Are Quite Common.

Maritime expressions used metaphorically are, in fact, very common. We say a couple are "spliced," a young man is the "mainstay" of his family, an intruder "puts his oar in," a man is "hard up," sometimes "taken aback" or has "the wind taken out of his sails," a toper is "slewed," a loafer "spins a yarn," sometimes "tries the other tack," and a ruler "steers the ship of state" through troublesome times.

This last metaphor is extremely ancient, by the way. Horace refers to Rome as a ship at sea, and Plutarch says the Delphic oracle referred to Athens in the same way. A Tamil saying embodies a like metaphor, "The soul is the ship, reason is the helm, the oars are the soul's thoughts, and truth is the port." An old collection of English proverbs contains this one: "The tongue is the rudder of our ship." A Malay maxim says, "The boat which is swamped at sea may be bailed out, but the shipwreck of the affections is final."

Aristophanes, Plautus and others use an expression which comes down to us as an English saw, "To row one way and look another." An old English proverb (614) was, "It is not good to have an oar in every one's boat."

He Sat.

It is related of the Rev. Matthew Clark that in the audience was once a young British military officer whose scarlet uniform far outshone any rival habiliments and so fixed the gaze of the young damsels present that the wearer, enjoying the impression he was making, not only stood through the prayer with the rest, but remained standing after all others had sat down until the pastor had proceeded for some time with his sermon, and at length, noticing a divided attention and its cause, the minister stopped, laid aside his sermon and, addressing his new hearer, said:

"You're a brave (brave) lad. Ye ha'e a braw suit of clathes, and we ha'e a' seen them. Ye may sit down."

The lieutenant dropped as if shot.—From the "Autobiography of Horace Greeley."

Snubbed the Composer.

Gustav Mahler had a queer experience in Munich one day for which his name was partly responsible. His new symphony was being rehearsed, and he took advantage of an hour's intermission to get some fresh air. "On returning to the building," says a Munich paper, "he lost his way and tried to reach the hall through a corridor in which plasterers were at work. 'You cannot pass through here,' he was told. 'But I am Mahler.' (Mahler is the German for painter.) 'You look it,' was the unsympathetic reply of the man who blocked his way. 'We are not ready for the painters yet, so run on.' And the composer, realizing that argument would be useless, plunged into the labyrinth and finally reached his destination."

Camels In Arabia.

There are two varieties of camels in use in Arabia, the dromedary and the freight camel. The dromedary dromedaries are celebrated for their easy riding gait and speed. A dromedary carries about 300 pounds and travels about six miles a day. It can be purchased for 100 to 150 Maria Theresa dollars (\$42.50 to \$63.75). A freight camel carries about 500 pounds and travels about two and a half miles an hour. It costs 300 Maria Theresa dollars (\$127 or more).

Not Idle Curiosity.

Mrs. Wanterknowe—I should like to know, Mr. W., why you are so cross when I ask questions. Surely you don't think I have idle curiosity? "Great Scott, no! Yours is the most perniciously active, wide awake, sleepless, energetic curiosity it was ever my fate to encounter."

Another Version.

The latest rendering of the Burns lines, "Oh, wad some power," etc., is given in a London evening paper thus: "Oh, wad some power the giffle gie us to see some folk before they see us."

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Notice for Publication.

Department of the Interior,
U. S. Land Office,
Roseburg, Oregon,
December 16, 1910.

Notice is hereby given that John W. Koon, of Bandon, Oregon, who on Feb. 2, 1909, made Homestead application No. 14842, Serial No. 04475, for S. E. 1-4 S. E. 1-4 Sec. 9, and W. 1-2 S. W. 1-4, and S. W. 1-4 S. W. 1-4, Section 10, Township 30 S., Range 14, W. W. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final Commutation Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before A. D. Morse, United States Commissioner, at Bandon, Oregon, on the 4th day of February, 1911.

Claimant names as witnesses:
James A. Cape, of Bandon, Oregon.
Hermen DeLong, of Bandon, Oregon.
Hayden D. Jackson, of Bandon, Oregon.
Elbert Dyer, of Bandon, Oregon.
63-16-T BENJAMIN F. JONES, Register.

M. G. POHL, Optometrist



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