

## LEGION OF HONOR.

The Order That Was Founded by the Great Napoleon.

THRIVED DESPITE RIDICULE.

The Despot Corsican Proved by the Incubation of the Decoration That He Was a Keen Student of French Human Nature.

France owes the Legion of Honor to Napoleon. All orders of chivalry had been abolished by the revolution and had left a gap which it was not easy to fill. "They are mere geegaws," said Monge, the chemist, who had taught the revolutionists how to make gunpowder out of plaster of paris. "Geegaws, if you will," the first consul answered, "but people like them. Let us approach the question frankly. All men are enamored of decorations, the French more than any. They positively hunger for them, and they have always done so."

This was at Malmaison in 1802. In May the conseil d'etat was invited to consider the project of the institution of the Legion of Honor. It was ridiculed by many, notably by Moreau, who was victor of Hohenlinden and was bitterly jealous of the victor of Marengo. At a dinner party he sent for his cook and said to him in the presence of his guests: "Michel, I am pleased with your dinner. You have indeed distinguished yourself. I will award you a spoonful of honor." Mme. de Staël was also satirical upon the subject. "Ah, one of the decorated?" she used to ask each guest who was shown into her salon.

But Napoleon had gauged human nature correctly. His Legion of Honor did meet a felt want, and it was definitely inaugurated on July 14, 1804. Among the eminent men of science and men of letters on whom it was then bestowed were included Laplace, the mathematician; Lalande, the astronomer; Cuvier, the naturalist, and Lavoisier, the poet. The most notable name omitted was that of Bernardin de St. Pierre, just then in disgrace for championing Mme. de Staël, whom Napoleon had banished, but he got the decoration later on the entreaty of Queen Hortense.

After Napoleon's downfall the question of suppressing the Legion of Honor arose. Chateaubriand, whom Napoleon had not decorated, strongly urged its abolition. So did Puzzo di Borgo, Marshals Victor, Marmont and Macdonald opposed. After debate it was decided to recognize and retain the order, not on any high moral or patriotic grounds, but because Louis XVIII. could not afford to make himself more unpopular than he was already by stripping people of their decorations. Chateaubriand and Lamartine consented to accept the red ribbon, but it was also conferred upon a great number of worthless personages and so brought into contempt.

There have been many Legion of Honor scandals since those days, but one of them surpasses all the others in magnitude. This is, of course, the Wilson scandal, the history of which, though intricate, is worth reciting. The trouble may be said to have begun on the day on which Mlle. Alice Grey fell in love with an opera singer who need not be mentioned here. He wanted to marry her, and she wanted to marry him, and the papers were beginning to couple the two names in a manner most embarrassing to the president of the republic. The president, however, sent the opera singer about his business and found his daughter another husband, not a very good husband, but the best husband he could procure on the spur of the moment. His choice fell upon M. Daniel Wilson, who had long been one of M. Grey's political supporters and was a financier of some mark.

No sooner was M. Wilson established at the Elysee than he proceeded to enrich himself by various means. Among other things he founded a paper called Le Moniteur de l'Exposition Universelle, which really covered a traffic in decorations. The whole story came out in a state trial toward the end of 1887. It was proved that Wilson had made a regular practice of selling the Legion of Honor, or, rather, of having people who wanted it to bribe him to use his influence to obtain it for them. His overtures were presented through his jackals, Generals d'Arman and Caffieri and Mmes. Limousin and Barazzi, and the whole party had to stand in the dock together.

Wilson was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, a fine of 3,000 francs and five years' deprivation of civil rights. He appealed, and the court of cassation annulled the judgment. The next day the judges, was obviously guilty of everything that he was charged with, but as his offenses were not anticipated by any punitive law he could not be punished. So he retired to the country and tried to live down his bad name. As he ultimately got himself elected councillor general one must suppose that he succeeded in this object. — *Pull Mail Gazette*.

**Wanted to Unload.**  
Employer I hope you save something out of your salary. James? Office Boy—Yes, sir; most all of it, sir. Employer eagerly—Do you want to buy an automobile cheap?—Puck.

Labour is time for doing something useful. This insure the diligent man will obtain, but the lazy man never.—Franklin

## MISPLACED AFFECTION.

Tragic Story of a Snake Charmer and Her Pet Reptile.

Miss X., a snake charmer well known among show people, firmly believed that one of her snakes was really fond of her. She could do anything with it—fondle it, kiss and caress it.

She grew so fond of it that at last she even let it sleep on her bed, to the great disgust of the other performers in the show. She would eat her meals with this horrible thing coiled around her neck, and once, in very warm weather, she took it under her coat into the woods with her and let it amuse itself by crawling over the ground. She followed it about and kept a most careful watch over it (it was a valuable performer), but it showed no disposition to go off into the woods, as she feared it might, but came back to her and coiled round her as usual.

She was warned several times that the reptile was very dangerous, but she grew more and more reckless, and the snake appeared to become more and more attached to her.

And then one day without any warning, directly after a performance when she was caressing it in her own room, the snake suddenly threw back its head, looked at her steadily and with lightning-like swiftness struck her between the eyes, leaving two tiny punctures. She hastily uncrolled it and thrust it into its box, but she died within half an hour.—*McClure's Magazine*.

## A HASTY MARRIAGE.

And the Bride Was Not the One the Wooer Sought.

Oliver Cromwell was so great a man that he dwarfed his surroundings, and it is singular how little the majority of people knew about the family and family life of this "the most typical Englishman of all time." He had three daughters, the youngest of whom was Frances. Her attractions must have been considerable. The young woman had several love affairs, but certainly the one that had a most amusing termination was her flirtation with her father's chaplain, Jerry White.

One day the protector surprised Jerry on his knees in the very act of kissing the lady's hand. Cromwell coldly demanded the meaning of the scene, and Jerry, with a pretty wit, exclaimed that he had long been courting "that young gentlewoman, my lady's woman," although without success. He was now thereby humbly praying her ladyship to intercede for him.

Cromwell turned at once to the waiting woman and requested to be informed why she refused the honor his friend, Mr. White, would do her. The young woman, fully equal to the occasion, replied magnanimously that if Mr. White intended that honor she would not be so churlish as to deny him. "Call Godwin," returned Cromwell, and the pair were married straightway.

## Feminine Strategy.

Her name is Amy, and she is one of the nicest young misses living on the upper west side. Her father concluded last week he would do something to encourage Amy in habits of industry. Therefore he offered to give her \$5 if she would trim a hat for herself. She accepted the proposition and two days later appeared before her father wearing a hat of her own creation, and a very pretty hat it was too. Her father was delighted and handed over the \$5 with real pleasure. The next day Amy, wearing another and still handsomer hat, met her father on the street. "And did you trim that one."

too?" he asked, with manifest pride. "No," was the reply. "I bought this hat with the \$5 you gave me and presented the other one to the janitor's little girl."—*New York Press*.

## Setting an Example.

"Whether the hotel proprietor I lunched with the other day is a hero publicly maintaining his sincere convictions as an encouragement to others or a slave in his own domain I cannot determine," said the gray-headed man. "I met him in the street not far from his hotel, and at his suggestion we lunched together. We ate in his own dining room. He tipped the waiter. We had checked our hats, and he tipped the boy in attendance. "Do you tip in your own hotel? I gasped.

"Always," said he. "It is as much trouble to wait on me as anybody else."—*New York Sun*.

## Our Country.

Let our object be our country, our whole country and nothing but our country. And by the blessing of God may that country itself become a vast and splendid monument, not of oppression and terror, but of wisdom, of peace and of liberty upon which the world may gaze with admiration forever.—Daniel Webster.

## Punctuation.

Pupil—Which is the proper punctuation to use after the word "cash" when entered up in the ledger?  
Teacher—Well, it's immaterial, but some people usually make a dash after cash.—*New York Times*.

## Jealousy.

Nell—He swore I was the only girl he had ever loved. Belle—For my part, I don't care for amateurs.—*Philadelphia Record*.

Fear is far more painful to cowardice than death to true courage.—*Sidney*.

*D'Orsay and His Pocket.*  
"D'Orsay, the Complete Dandy," as Mr. Tiegmouth Shore calls him in his biography, was fully aware of the value of his patronage to the tailors. When clothes arrived for him, in the most mysterious manner banknotes had found their way into the pockets. Once, when this accident had not happened, D'Orsay bade his valet return the garments with the message that "the lining of the pockets had been forgotten."

## The Old, Old Story.

"What did you do when your husband told you the old, old story?"  
"I told him to shut up before he was half through."  
"Why, what a funny way to reply to a confession of love!"  
"Oh, is that what you mean? I thought you meant the story he told last night when he came home from a time with the boys."—*Houston Post*.

## Administratrix Notice.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, in and for the County of Umatilla.

In the matter of the Estate of Charles Wilson, Deceased:

Notice is hereby given that Maggie Wilson of Athena, Oregon, was on the 1st day of June, 1911, appointed administratrix of the estate of Charles Wilson, deceased, by the above entitled court, and that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present said claims with proper vouchers thereto, to said administratrix or to her attorney, Homer I. Watts, at his office in Athena, Oregon.

Maggie Wilson, Administratrix of the Estate of Charles Wilson, deceased.

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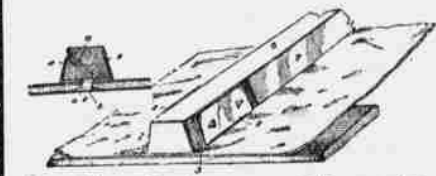
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