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Across the Border

A Story of the Supernatural

By SARAH ATHERTON

Ralph Hillman was wishing he had not taken this solitary fishing trip up Little Bear river. There is not much sport in landing a ten pounder when there is no companion to praise or deprecate one's efforts, and the bacon and biscuits prepared over the campfire lost their zest when eaten with no other companion than Nip, the mottled mongrel who was Ralph's closest friend, excepting always Francis Beale, but Beale was traveling in the orient and not available as a companion.

Francis and Ralph had been brought up together. They had been playmates in childhood, had attended the same school and had gone to the same college at the same time. During their college days they had long conferences on subjects which interest youth, but which as persons grow older they do not like to think, much less talk, about. The subject which fascinated them was the hereafter and the reappearance of mortals after death. Francis, though he seemed to believe such reappearances might be possible with some disembodied spirits, seemed less inclined to discuss the subject than his friend. It appeared to affect him unpleasantly. When Ralph proposed a compact by which the one who died first should appear if possible to the other Francis agreed, but reluctantly.

Strange to relate, at this time as Ralph sat in the circle of his campfire, trying to read by the bright glow, Nip suddenly growled, and the hair on his neck rose in a stiff bristling ridge. Ralph looked up and inclined his ear to the vague rustle of the encompassing forest, and there stepped out of the shadows none other than Francis Beale himself. With his old whimsical smile he dropped to the ground on the other side of the fire and clasped his hands around his knees.

"By the great horn spoon, I'm glad to see you—but, man, where did you

"I CAME TO SAY GOODBY."

come from?" gasped Ralph, too astonished to give other greeting to this unexpected guest.

"I heard you were here, and I wanted to talk with you again," returned Beale easily.

"Smoke?" asked Ralph, extending pipe and tobacco box.

The other shook his head. "Not now."

"You are not sick, are you?" queried Ralph anxiously. He could not understand Francis Beale declining a smoke. In the old days he had earned the nickname of "The Chimney" because he was rarely without pipe or cigar between his lips.

"Never felt better in my life," returned Beale, leaning back against the trunk of a beech tree. "How have things gone with you, old man?"

"Fine and dandy," said Ralph; "only I wish I'd never started forth on this trip alone—had the beastliest time all alone. If I'd known you were within hailing distance of Chicago I'd have made connections and waited for you to join me. When did you strike my trail?"

"Not long ago," evaded Beale. "That's another story as some one has already said."

"Well, if you want to be close mouthed about your movements lately, at least you can spin me a yarn of your oriental trip," went on Ralph in an injured tone. "What about something to eat—coffee?"

The other shook his head and gazed moodily into the fire. "That's what I came for," he said gravely.

Ralph was puzzled. "Came for? The coffee?"

"No—to spin you a yarn of what happened."

"Happened when?"

"The 8th of July."

"The 8th of July—why, that was yesterday! Oh, I forgot—of course you've been gone a year. You mean the 8th of last July."

Francis Beale made no comment. For awhile he sat there, silent, morose, his dark eyes fixed on the fire. The dancing flames cast a rosy glow over his face and hands and lighted up the rough traveling clothes that he wore. Ralph thought it strange that trained woodman as Beale was, he had not arrayed himself for this long and tedious fishing trip. He carried no impedimenta, and his friend attributed this to Beale's having made a small camp of his own near by or else he had dropped his kit beyond the circle of flame.

"Yarn away," prompted Ralph lazily as he lounged on the warm ground. He reached out and laid his hand on Nip's bristled neck and felt the dog trembling like an aspen. "Nip's getting white livered over something," remarked Ralph.

"I went to Kaoling on the China coast, you know," began Beale abruptly. "You remember I was searching for some stray pieces of that rare old Kaoling porcelain, and I had been put on that trail by Hudnuth of San Francisco."

Ralph nodded.

"I was the only white man within a hundred miles in any direction of the little village, and their courtesy disarmed me of any fears I may have entertained as to their hospitality. The steamer's boat which landed me returned to the big vessel, and she steamed away into the horizon, leaving me all alone on the yellow mud shore, surrounded by a chattering, tittering crowd of native Chinese as yellow as the mud.

"Of course there was no inn to speak of, only an infested hole, into which I poked my head only once. On the outskirts of the village I found the deserted home of a prosperous merchant and made a deal with his relatives for its occupancy. There I made my headquarters, surrounded by thieving servants and aware that if I was ever caught off my guard I was done for. They were a crowd that would have knifed me for twenty cash.

"I knew that a remote Chinese fishing village is a queer place in which to look for Kaoling porcelains; but, mark you, Ralph, that little village was all that remained of a once great and prosperous city whose ruins straggled back from the sea and covered many leagues of flat country, broken by jutting stones of half burned temples.

"It was here those treasures were if the earthquake which had destroyed the city had spared the porcelains. So I made my strongest efforts to bear on the temple ruins, and in the end I met a measure of success. I was sorry that I had not persuaded you to accompany me on that quest; but, no; perhaps it was best that you did not."

Beale stared into the fire with strangely lit eyes, and there was something in the rigidity of his attitude that brought Ralph Hillman to a sitting posture where he could watch his friend closely.

"Go on, Francis," he urged. "I wish I had been with you, danger or not. You know I'm not afraid of that."

"I know," said the other, with a long confident look at Ralph. "We have slept by campfires together, and you saved my life once. That was why I wanted to see you once more."

"Once more!" repeated Ralph uneasily. "What do you mean, Francis? You are not going away again?"

"Never mind that now; you will understand after you have heard my story. As I said, I found the entrance to an especially promising temple and I planned to spend an entire day there, hoping to reach the inner shrine, where there might be a porcelain god, and I was almost sure to discover some altar vessels of the coveted ware. Of course I had had help in my work, a gang of coolies had excavated for me day by day, but now that a free passage had been discovered I preferred to be alone, as I knew they would resent the removal of one article from the place, and I was after all I could get.

"Before I started out that morning I had received word that Barment and his party would join me on the 8th, that very day was the 7th of September. I was elated to think I was going to have white companions at last, men interested in the same pursuit that I was. I sent the boatman, who had brought the message, away rejoicing with a handful of money and so further excited the cupidity of my native servants.

"I ordered my house set in order for a dozen guests, and so I went on to the buried city. I made my way down into the stone passage of the temple, found my way unchecked save by occasional blocks of stone, which I pried away, and at last I was within the inner shrine, where my wildest hopes were realized.

"Such a collection of Kaoling ware you never saw, but Barment will rescue it, and you may see it in the museum. It was while I was bending above the porcelain that the blow came—stab wounds one after another in my back and sides from a dozen treacherous knives. Then I was flung into a dark corner to die, while the murderers fled to loot my house.

"I lingered until the evening of the 9th, and just as Barment and his party reached me, before I could tell them who the guilty ones were, I died!"

"You what?" screamed Ralph, springing to his feet.

"I died," said the other quietly, "but I came to say goodby." All at once Ralph was alone in the whispering forest, while Nip lifted his head in one long drawn bowl.

A week later Ralph Hillman struck civilization again. His first search of telegraphic news left him limp and white. The letters stared blackly at him:

"It has been learned that Dr. Francis Beale, who had been traveling in China, was murdered by natives on the coast and supposed to have died on the 9th inst."

SYSTEM IN BUSINESS.

Advantage of the Man Who Knows Where to Find Things.

Among twenty clerks employed by a New York importing house it was no easy matter for one to attract the attention of the manager. And it was not with any such idea, in fact, that young Gaven kept his desk and the papers in his care in the most neat and careful order. He did it just because he had a systematic mind and liked things in place.

He was always able at a moment's notice to put his hand on anything he needed. So when the manager happened to need a certain price list, copies of which had been given not only to Gaven, but to every one of the other nineteen clerks, it was Gaven who placed his hand on his copy while the others were just beginning to wonder where they had put theirs.

There was no comment on that, but a few days later when the manager again needed certain papers Gaven found them first.

"Aren't you the man who gave me that price list on Monday?" asked the manager. "Yes!" "Well, my private secretary has just been promoted, and I need a new one, a man who will know where to find things. Would you like the place?"

There was only one answer to that. That was how Gaven got his first step.—New York World.

THE TINY HUMMING BIRD.

In One Species Its Bill Is Nearly as Long as Its Body.

All humming birds, though varying much in size and color, exhibit the same form of wing, legs and feet, the wings being strong (considering the small size of the bird), while the legs and feet are remarkably weak and delicate, a clear indication that these little creatures are intended to spend almost all their time in the air.

In accordance with this we find that humming birds are never seen on the ground; that even when feeding they seldom trouble themselves to alight, but suspend themselves in the air before the flower on whose juices they mean to feed, the rapid vibration of the wings causing them to appear like two fans of filmy gauze and producing at the same time that peculiar humming sound from which these birds derive their popular name.

The beak of most humming birds is long, delicate and slightly curved to enable it to reach the inmost recesses of the trumpet shaped flowers which abound in the tropical regions, but the shape of the beak is very variable, probably on account of the particular flower on which the bird feeds.

In some instances it is nearly straight, and in one species, the sword bill humming bird, it is very nearly as long as the rest of the body.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Bismarck's Mystic Number.

Bismarck held, with Pythagoras, that not 13, but 3, was the great and perfect number. Bismarck's associations with 3 were remarkable. He had served three masters. He had three names—Bismarck, Schoenhausen and Lauenburg. The arms of his family are a clover leaf and three oak leaves. He was concerned in three wars and signed three treaties of peace. In the Franco-Prussian war he had three horses killed under him. He brought about the meeting of three emperors and was responsible for the triple alliance. He had three children. His family motto was "In Trinitate Robur" ("Strength in Trinity"), and contemporary caricature pictured him with three hairs on his head. Three was the beginning, the middle and the end of Bismarck.

He Got Along Fine.

Thomas had never been able to carry a tune, and after he had been for awhile in a class where singing was obligatory his mother felt curious to know how he managed to keep up with the singing.

"Thomas," she inquired, "how do you get along in your singing class?"

"Fine!" declared Thomas.

"Why, that's lovely," said his delighted and mystified mother. "What does your teacher say about it?"

"She says," replied Thomas cheerfully, "'Now, Thomas, if you don't feel like singing you needn't.'"—Chicago Record-Herald.

Putting It to Good Use.

"I s'pose you've been very careful about th' books you let your children have."

"Oh, yes, indeed! There's our Jim—we intend him for a statesman. Jim was raised on the Congressional Record."

"The Congressional Record! Well, well!"

"Yes; we let him sit on it for years so he'd be raised enough to eat from the table."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Song Bird.

They say the birds are timid. Great heavens, to be so small and lovely in a world of hawks and snares and yet dare to sing as if the gods were good! In all the wide creation there is nothing braver than the heart of a singing bird.

Yet Both Made Hits.

Director—Say, my man, how is it that Shakespeare's statue is standing on the pedestal marked Scott? Attendant—He must have got his base on an error, sir.—Brooklyn Life.

Legitimate Question.

Father—No, indeed! My father never heard me tell a lie! Willie—Was grandpa as deaf as grandma?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

House Bill Would Permit Farmers to Borrow From Government.

Washington.—A national farm loan bureau, to loan money on improved farms to bona fide tillers of the soil only, at not to exceed 4½ per cent interest and conducted under the control of the secretary of the treasury, is the object of a bill introduced by Representative Lenroot. The bureau would be in charge of a commissioner at $6000 a year, an assistant at $4000, and other employes as necessary.

A farmer desiring a loan on his property would, if the measure became a law, be able to borrow 60 per cent of the appraised value of the place at 4½ per cent interest.

Loans will only be made on farms having at least one-half of the total acreage under cultivation.

Exclude Combine Ships From Canal.

Charging that the "shipping trust" is planning to monopolize Panama canal trade, Representative Humphrey of Washington introduced a bill to exclude from the water all ships which are parties to foreign or domestic combines, pools or "conferences."

"The evidence already adduced at the 'steamship trust' investigation has demonstrated that a foreign combine is guilty of every charge made against them," said Representative Humphrey. "They fix rates by agreement and do everything human ingenuity can devise to monopolize trade and stifle competition."

Western Senators Send Wilson Letter

Senators Chamberlain, Perky, Myers, Newlands, Ashurst, and Smith forwarded to Governor Wilson at Trenton, a joint letter urging him to appoint a western man as secretary of the interior, and asking that he appoint either Governor Hawley, of Idaho, Governor Norris, of Montana, Joseph N. Teal, of Portland, or Clay Tallman, of Nevada.

Borah Commends Policy of Wilson.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, has written Governor Wilson, congratulating him upon his stand on the conservation question, as set forth in his recent speech at Chicago, and promising him his hearty co-operation in any effort the next administration may make to weed out the vagaries that have made conservation objectionable to the west, and to substitute a practical conservation that will aid in the development of the public land states.

Senator Borah submits a new proposition, and asks the co-operation of the president-elect in securing the adoption of a policy whereby the United States government will in the future reclaim the desert lands of the west, and turn them over to homeseekers without cost.

Immigration Bill Beaten in Senate

The fact that provisions of the bureau that the Dillingham immigration bill might allow Russia and other countries to exercise control over immigration to the United States, led the senate to refuse to accept the conference report on the bill.

The bill was sent back to conference with the senate's disapproval of the provision requiring certificates of character from emigrants coming from countries where such certificates were issued.

Telephone Inquiry to Commerce Board

Regulation by the interstate commerce commission of the American Telephone & Telegraph company, and not the compulsory competitive provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law, will be the means of solving in large measure the so-called "telephone trust" problem, according to Attorney-General Wickersham, who announced that he had referred the whole question to the commission for investigation and action.

This move terminates the investigation by the Department of Justice of the alleged $600,000,000 telephone trust against which independent telephone companies have made charges of unfair treatment, and of the employment of methods destructive of competition.

National Capital Brevities

A garrison of 25,000 men will be necessary to guard the Panama Canal, Colonel Goethals told the house naval affairs committee.

Federal prisoners having served 15 years of life sentences will hereafter be eligible for parole, if President Taft signs the law passed by the senate.

William Rockefeller, the Standard Oil magnate, is not too ill to testify briefly before the house committee investigating the money trust, according to Dr. Richardson, the medical expert sent to Miami, Fla., to examine the millionaire.

Dr. F. F. Friedmann's serum cure for tuberculosis was the subject of a long report by Consul General Thackara at Berlin, sent to congress by President Taft. Thackara said 1118 persons have been treated and while the cure has not yet been accepted by the medical profession, the results warrant the attention of congress.

GARMENT WORKERS REBEL

Not More Than Half Of Waist Makers Will Obey Orders

New York.—An announced settlement of the strike in the dress and shirtwaist branch of the garment making industry, promising to send 37,000 operatives back to work, was followed almost at once by rebellion among employes affected against the terms their leaders had agreed upon with the manufacturers.

Two meetings to ratify the agreement between the manufacturers and the leaders of the dress and shirtwaist branches of the garment making industry, by which the strikers are to return to work, were held Sunday. At both there seemed to be only a half hearted acquiescence by the workers in the plans of their leaders. The protocol affects 139 shops and close to 30,000 operatives. It is expected, however, that only about half the operatives will return. Even if all go back, it would leave more than 100,000 workers still on strike in other branches of the garment trades.

Large Packers In Combine Alleged

Jefferson City, Mo.—An agreement tending to fix prices and to "lessen, restrict and destroy free competition" exists between the big packing companies of the country, according to an opinion filed with the state supreme court by Special Commissioner Daniel Dillon.

Lounsberry Found Guilty

Kansas City, Kan.—Wells Lounsberry, a former resident of Medford, Ore., was found guilty by a jury in the federal court of robbing a mail car August 23, 1912, near Lawrence, Kan. He was sentenced to 7½ years in prison.

WILSON FROWNS ON INAUGURAL BALL

Trenton, N. J.—President-elect Wilson favors the abolishment of the inaugural ball. This became known when he sent a letter to William Corcoran Eustis, chairman of the inauguration committee, asking him to consider the feasibility of omitting it. Mr. Wilson wrote:

"After taking counsel with a great many persons and canvassing as well as I could general opinion in the matter, I have come to the conclusion that it is my duty to ask you to consider the feasibility of omitting the inaugural ball altogether."

He declined to say what ceremony he would favor as a substitute for the inaugural ball. A popular reception at the capitol had been suggested.

Washington.—"There will be no inaugural ball," said William C. Eustis, chairman of the inaugural committee, after an informal conference with several members over President-elect Wilson's letter requesting that the committee consider the feasibility of omitting the function.

"The wishes of President-elect Wilson will be complied with," said Eustis. The committee may decide to ask Governor Wilson if he would consent to a monster reception at the White House on the night of his induction into office.

THE MARKETS.

Portland.

Wheat—Club, 86c; bluestem, 92c; red Russian, 83c.
Oats—$27 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, $17; alfalfa, $12.
Butter—Creamery, 37c.
Eggs—Candled, 30c.
Hops—1912 crop, 20c.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, 18c; Willamette valley, 22½c.

Seattle.

Wheat—Bluestem, 92c; club, 86c; red Russian, 83c.
Eggs—31c.
Butter—Creamery, 36c.
Hay—Timothy, $17 per ton; alfalfa, $12 per ton.

Genius and Work.

Men give me credit for genius. All the genius I have lies just in this: When I have a subject in hand I study it profoundly. Day and night it is before me. I explore it in all its bearings. My mind becomes pervaded with it. Then the effort which I make the people are pleased to call the fruit of genius. It is the fruit of labor and thought.—Alexander Hamilton.

The Literary Waitress.

"Will you have a cereal for your breakfast?" asked the waitress.

"A serial? No, thank you," replied the witty guest. "I should prefer some short stories."

Whereupon she brought him some lambs' tails.—Chicago Post.

A Mean Dig.

Miss Passee—I've had many chances to marry. Only a short time ago a man told me of his love. Miss Pert—Did he also tell you the name of the lady?—Meggendorfer Blatter.

A jealous man always finds more than he looks for.—Mlle. de Scudery.

OREGON LAWMAKERS' WORK AS REVIEWED

Initial Week Is Remarkable for Work Accomplished.

Salem.—The first week's session of the 27th legislative assembly was remarkable for the prompt manner in which the lawmakers got down to actual work and the great amount of business accomplished is in strong contrast to the time-marking proceedings of previous sessions. In the past the first week has been frittered away with nothing accomplished aside from organization.

In the house 150 bills have been introduced the first week as compared with 30 bills at the preceding session, and in the senate 75 bills have been introduced as against 36 bills last session—a total of 225 bills.

While numerous acts for the repealing of laws which provide for public offices and commissions have been introduced, at the same time, for the first week of a session, it is fairly well holding its own as to bills creating new public offices.

One bill creating the Accident Industrial commission provides for three commissioners, each to receive a salary of $3600 a year, thus carrying provision in this bill for salaries alone of $10,800 a year, or $21,600 for a biennial period.

Another bill, which creates a chair of logging engineering at the Oregon agricultural college, carries with it an appropriation of $65,000.

A bill has also been introduced to provide for the examination of rural credits in European countries which carries an appropriation for the expenses of the investigators.

The bill creating a state board of control really creates no new board, but does away with a number of old ones and centralizes and expands somewhat the duties of the present state board, which is made up of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer.

Senate Overrides Several Vetoes

The senate is ahead of the house on the vetoed measures of the last session, having acted on all of the bills originating in that body, and only one remains to be finally passed on. The house has acted on only a few of its vetoed bills.

The measures passed over veto of governor in the senate were:

Forbidding spending where there is no available appropriation. Creating emergency board in time of need when deficiency exists. Providing livestock board; abolishing sheep inspector, state and county veterinarians. Method for dividing counties. Providing fish hatchery at Spring Creek. Increasing district attorney's salary in Fifth Judicial district.

The vetoes sustained in the house were:

A measure providing for second choice in primary elections. A measure modifying law with regard to diverting funds from ordained use.

Appropriation Bills Large

Appropriation bills making demands on the state treasury of $1,078,700 have been introduced. This is a record breaker, as it is the first time that appropriation bills have ever been introduced during the first week.

It seems to be a pretty well settled fact that the appropriation for Panama-Pacific Exposition will not get past the $250,000 mark at the outside, although some of the members are boosting for $300,000. A great number of them have settled on $200,000 as the proper figures.

Changes in Oregon System Proposed

The initiative and referendum and the corrupt practices act are being made in prospect the subject of numerous amendatory acts at the present session, but according to indications the majority of the amendments to these acts which have already been proposed will meet with scant favor from the committees to which they have been referred.

Among the acts is one that provides that no more than two constitutional amendments nor five general laws shall be submitted to the people at any one election. Another bill proposes that after an initiative bill has received so many adverse votes it shall not go on the ballot again for a period of six years.

The corrupt practices act is also the subject of a large number of bills which propose amendatory clauses.

Check on Campaign Expense is Urged

With the view of confining the expenditure of money, either in behalf or against any initiative measure, to the publicity pamphlets and newspaper advertising, Representative Blanchard, of Josephine, introduced a bill in the house which, if passed, will revolutionize proceedings with relation to initiating measures and waging campaigns with relation to them.

The bill, in brief, provides that it shall be unlawful for anyone to expend money in promoting a measure or defeating it, save in arguments in the publicity pamphlets and in the newspapers. This cuts off all distribution of private literature, and also all other means of expenditures.

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Dear Friend:

Every morning before I go to school I sweep out the dining room and kitchen for Mama. Yesterday she told me I might have a new broom. I went down town and bought a dandy for 75 cents. I could have got a good cheap one for 40 cents.

Your friend,
JACOB.

P.S. I saw some fine new shoes for Men; they said it was the Royal Chinook dress shoe and the Victor work shoe; they are the Goodman make, the best made and you know you get them at

MELOY'S

TROOPS SEIZE R. R. PIER

Secretary of War Acts on Suggestion of Attorney-General

Buffalo, N. Y.—Acting under orders of the war department, Company B, of the Twenty-ninth Infantry, stationed at Fort Porter, took possession of the railroad pier at the mouth of the Buffalo river. The troops camped on the pier.

The government contends that the railroad occupied 15 feet frontage on government land and has refused to vacate.

Washington.—The federal soldiers were ordered to take possession of the "North" pier at Buffalo by Secretary of War Stimson at the request of Attorney-General Wickersham. The government has doubted the Lackawanna's right to the property for several years.

TURKEY CALLS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Constantinople.—The government decided to convene the national assembly Wednesday to take the Balkan situation under consideration.

A serious quarrel occurred recently on the Turkish warships in the Dardanelles between officers who were anxious to fight the Greeks and others who considered that the Turkish fleet was no match for the enemy. Blows were exchanged and before the quarrel was settled 15 officers were wounded.

Trouble has arisen through the circulation of a manifesto signed "The Women of Turkey," suggesting that the forts should sink the Turkish warships, whose poor-spirited officers always fled at the approach of the Greek fleet.

London.—The Porte's decision to call a national assembly Wednesday to take under advisement the Balkan situation probably heralds further concessions on the part of Turkey—concessions which could not be yielded by the cabinet without risking its fall. In any case the Balkan delegates in London do not believe the Porte's reply to the joint note of the powers will be such a flat refusal as was foreshadowed from Constantinople.

HILL'S TESTIMONY WANTED

Empire Builder to Be Asked About Bank Consolidation

St. Paul, Minn.—The testimony of James J. Hill is desired by the house money trust investigating committee, and the railroad builder will appear before the Pujo body in Washington. Hill said that he is perfectly willing to testify before the congressional committee.

It is understood the committee has requested Hill's testimony, and that January 24 had been set as the tentative date of his appearance.

According to the Washington special, the testimony of Hill is sought by the investigation committee in connection with the consolidation of the "first and second" national banks of St. Paul, and the election of Duluth and Minneapolis bankers on the directorate.