

THOMAS NELSON PAGE.

Talented Virginia Novelist Who Writes of the Old South.

According to Mrs. L. H. Harris, a southern literary critic, Thomas Nelson Page is rapidly losing his vogue and has done his best work. His reputation, says this writer, must rest upon what he already has accomplished. There is a long string of excellent books to Mr. Page's credit, and even if it be true that his best work is all behind him his reputation in American literature will remain an enviable one.

Mr. Page is still in the prime of life, being only fifty-four. He is of course a native Virginian. Most of his literary work is strictly of the Virginia flavor. Mr. Page now lives in Wash-



THOMAS NELSON PAGE.

ington, where he has a commodious residence, but his pen continues to paint word pictures of Virginia life. It is the antebellum Virginia and the Virginia of reconstruction days which mostly engages Mr. Page's talent. Born of one of the fine old families of the state, his books are alive with the traditions of the landed aristocrat, the planter, the proud old military man and the pretty girl of the manor house.

It is this constant working over of material from a day that is past which, according to Mrs. Harris, accounts for the waning popularity of Mr. Page's writings. The present generation of readers is said to be more or less indifferent to those historic times when the south was struggling in the throes of civil war and reconstruction. As the writer mentioned says:

"He has interpreted what was at the time he wrote the spirit of the south, that armored and helmeted spirit which survived the defeats of the civil war, riding unconquered and unconquerable through bereavements, poverty and the unimaginable humiliation of the reconstruction period."

GENERAL MORTEZA KHAN.

Persian Minister is a Giant and Ten Times a Millionaire.

One of the most interesting members of the diplomatic corps at Washington is General Morteza Khan, the Persian minister. In personal appearance he is quite striking, being six feet four inches tall. His height is emphasized by his tall, pot shaped hat or fez. The minister is said to be worth \$10,000,000. He is a bachelor and is forty-two years old. With the exception of the shah he is perhaps the greatest landowner in Persia. His particular hobby is irrigation, and since coming to



GENERAL MORTEZA KHAN.

the United States, two and a half years ago, he has made a considerable study of American methods.

Minister Morteza has passed his life in official posts. He began as a page in the royal palace. He was sent to Paris by the shah to be educated, and upon his return in 1882 he was made chamberlain to his majesty and dragon-chamber in the state department. In that department he served many years, having charge of matters relative to America even before his appointment as minister at Washington.

The title of khan, which he bears, is equivalent to a patent of nobility. It was conferred upon the minister by the shah. Minister Morteza brought from his beautiful home in Persia a large collection of house furnishings of distinctive Persian style with which he furnished the Washington legation.

Young Folks

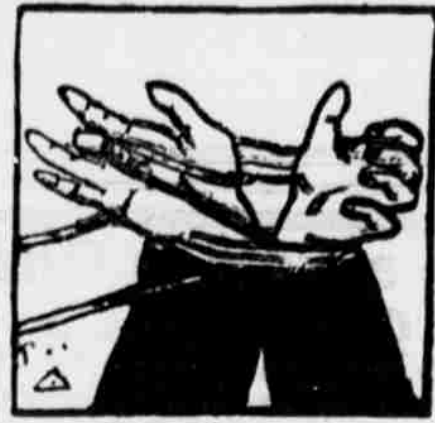
THE LIBERATED ROPE.

How to Perform a Mystifying but Simple Trick.

Here is a simple feat of parlor magic that any boy can perform after a few minutes' practice:

Take a stout rope about twenty feet long and hand it to your audience for inspection. After they have examined it let one of them blind your wrists together with a handkerchief.

This being done, have one end of the rope passed under the handkerchief and let the cords then be held up by one of the company. Now request the per-



IN POSITION FOR THE TRICK.

son holding the ends to pull one way, while you pull the other, to show that the handkerchief is tightly tied.

There is apparently no way of getting the rope off except when the ends are released or the handkerchief untied. You soon explode this idea, however, for after making one or two rapid movements of your hands and arms you throw the rope off and exhibit your wrists still tied.

Wonderful as this all seems, it is very simple and requires but little practice, as shown clearly by the accompanying illustration. The part of the rope marked A is rolled between the wrists until it works up through the handkerchief and forms a loop, through which you pass one hand, and then by giving the rope a smart jerk it comes off easily.

ROCKED THE EARTH.

Children at Play Bother Scientists at Greenwich Observatory.

One would hardly think that the solid earth could be set all a-tremble by a party of boys and girls running up and down a hill, and yet that this is true has just been discovered at the Greenwich observatory in England. It seems that the scientists at work in the observatory found it impossible on several occasions at long intervals apart to make certain experiments in which it was necessary to use a tray of mercury on account of the persistent trembling of the mercury, which kept up till after midnight. They could not account for this at first, but at last they noticed that it always occurred on the days when a crowd of people assembled in the public playgrounds of Greenwich park. A favorite sport of the young people is to climb to the top of the hill on which the observatory stands, even to the fence surrounding the buildings, and then, joining hands by twos and threes, to run as fast as they can to the bottom of the hill, where they bring up "all in a heap." This makes a tremor run all through the hill, as the tray of mercury shows, and it lasts for hours.

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The Farmer's Wife

Is very careful about her churn. She seals it thoroughly after using, and gives it a sun bath to sweeten it. She knows that if her churn is sour it will taint the butter that is made in it. The stomach is a churn. In the stomach and digestive and nutritive tracts are performed processes which are almost exactly like the churning of butter. Is it not apparent then that if this stomach-churn is foul it makes foul all which is put into it?

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