

From Notes and Observations

Compiled by Wm. R. Mackrill.

As a glorious fall evening in Paris, the club, on Boulevard Germain, discussing the events of the day. There had been rumors and reports of disagreement between France and Germany. One could say what would happen. Both nations were on the alert, armed, mobilized, ready to drop the hat.

The sculptor, drew up a table and very modestly, of the fascinating American people which had just become all the rage. We had just heard of the Brangere, with Ouvrard, the Mongerval, former French ambassador to St. Petersburg, and myself, up the party.

Latour, the correspondent, burst in, with his eyes sparkling. Latour's eyes always shined a message of some kind. "You heard the latest," he inquired. "What has happened?"

"I jumped to our feet in astonishment. Insults have passed. The Germans have burned the French embassy in Berlin. The French retaliated by hanging a dummy Kaiser. The people are all of one mind. They must march down in Berlin, demanding that Germany restore upon her dignity. So there you are."

"And what from the War Office?" asked Mongerval.

"Latour bent over our table and dismissed the words: 'The Germans have already invaded France. They are swarming across the frontier. And the shame of it—we are not ready. There are no troops in the field. It is the absolute duty of the Government, the littleness, the selfishness, the cowardice of the commanders and the ministers. Latour's breath gave out. He was saying tragic words. We were looking at one another in dumb amazement. For none knew French in the army, and the French, against which stood the mighty power of the enemy, her teeming population, every man of which had been trained to carry a gun, to not to obey orders. And the German had chosen the hour well. I called a pronouncement of the German General Staff in 1905, when they said, 'We shall begin our winter campaign. Our soldiers, coming from the cold regions of the north, will march toward a temperate climate, and the advantage will be altogether ours.' Latour left us on his chase for news. Our party was broken up. The impending crisis was too much for us.

"I shall go to the front and gather material for a wonderful group—the living Generalissimo," said Brangere, throwing back his broad shoulders. "The French will win," said Ouvrard, smiling, and I shall lean them hands—as much as they may need—without charge, for the sake of my beloved France." And here he led me for I knew that he would demand interest to the last sou.

"Adieu," said Mongerval. "I go to the President. I shall urge meditation, and I, myself, shall be an ambassador to arrange terms." He withdrew grandly.

I was left alone—I, James Adams, a plain American of adventure, to perform a part of which I had had no conception.

It was a tremendous task, for in Germany either, for that matter, to be secretive. Suspicions are sure to be aroused if your business is not well known and openly stated. Therefore it was well that I was allied with an American manufacturer of arms, with offices in Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and Calais. In France I was careful to be in Germany in a matter—this already to the core. In addition to my ready adaptability, I was personally acquainted with the French and German rulers, had excellent German connections, and was well known in Belgium, Holland and Italy. And inasmuch as it often became necessary for me to

change my colors and affiliations several times in as many weeks, my acquaintance stood me in good turn. It was no light matter—this already to the core. In addition to my ready adaptability, I was personally acquainted with the French and German rulers, had excellent German connections, and was well known in Belgium, Holland and Italy. And inasmuch as it often became necessary for me to

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A Modern Ah Sin.

My story relates to another Ah Sin: Not here, Hario, but my own; my own kith and kin.

It was only a few short weeks ago in that city you so well know, Which the Bride and the Groom set off. Where the south winds gently blow.

'Tis a city of shade and a city of flowers, A city where laws are made By statesmen great, by statesmen small, Of every degree and grade.

For where there is good, there is also bad, And the task before me I hate, As there's much that's true and more that's sad.

In the story I now relate, By invite I came on a Saturday night For a friendly game of cards, Nor I since have thought it was just the thing, While professing the kindest regards,

To be trapped into an unknown game, As simple as A B C, By friends, whom each to the other made boast.

They'd wipe up the table with me, On this evening in question I simply dropped in.

On the Major, whose friendship I prize, Not thinking of aught but a friendly game, Or with tales of the war to swap lies.

And there was the Doctor, another good friend, Such a modest and innocent mate; And these two suggested a nice, quiet game, Intending my duets to take.

'Twas a curious game to an innocent kid, So full of surprises unfair, Where an honest hand is so frequently bluffed.

And a bias, instead of a pair, Five cards are dealt out, only one at a time, And if you're not "suted" you while.

While a "flush" is not always the most modest sign, "To be full" is far better than all.

And should there be dealt you a real hand, Still worse is the luck you have met; Not a player responds when you open the pot;



WE DISCOVERED THE GERMANS TO BE FIRING ON US.

Not a sound greets your offers to bet. We thought that we were sweeping the country with his field glasses, and his eyes, trained to keen observation, discerned what we were all looking for. I turned my glasses in the same direction. There was the indication of my theory. Far below us, stretched the fields and woods of the German Province of Lorraine, with here and there towers resembling clusters of red and white flowers. Through this fair country stretched the highways, like white ribbons. But what was that silent, sinuous, snake-like movement on every road, extending for miles? Troops and troops of soldiers, helmets and gun-barrels flashing in the bright sun. As far as the eye could reach, with brief intervals between them, we saw the thousands and thousands of German soldiers. General Martini turned to the telegraph instrument and clicked a message, and I knew that within five minutes the German Staff would learn, through its watchers in the Eiffel Tower Station, that the German rush across the southeastern frontier was but a blind; that the main movement was to avoid it, save by going higher, in danger of isolation from Calais and from her ally, England.

General Martini felt a great exultation. In the face of masters of war, I had advanced an opinion without a word, and I was not to be tested; I had won out. More, I had perhaps saved France the humiliation of a surprise, and of possible de-

IN JUVENILE COURTS.

New Methods of Dealing with the Early Misdemeanors of Children.

In the March number of the Sun Magazine appears an interesting account of the work of giving boys a chance to escape the clutches of crime and prison influences. A similar work is going on in many cities of the country. The San Francisco juvenile court was instituted in May, 1902, under the legislative act of that year, through the urging of the California Club, the Associated Charities, the Merchants' Association and other patriotic organizations and individuals. The original law of 1902 laid the foundation for the legal machinery, which the revised statute of 1905 perfected and put into operation. This law provided, among other things, for an advisory committee, which appoints probation officers, secures funds and establishes the proper connecting link between the judge and probation officers and the general public.

Since the establishment of this court over 2,100 separate delinquency cases and several hundred dependents have been handled under the fatherly care of Judge Murasky. His eyes, ears and hands are the probation officers and volunteer workers. Each officer looks after the school records of the court's wards; another sees to their working side; another is the official "chaser"; still another is the directory and "dictionary"—he knows every boy—his doings and usages for years past.

Concerning the San Francisco work, Arthur J. Todd, the present chief probation officer, says: "Herein are cases are barren, and give no hint of sensational capture, tolls some indignation, patience, success, information or occasional failure. Neither do they suggest the hearty cooperation of the rapid development of the general public's interest. Already the juvenile court has proven that it pays to see him as a growing thing responding to his environment rather than criminal born, fixed and destined to wreck. Already even, are men looking toward the employment of its methods in dealing with adult offenders."

of the Suez Canal only sixty-six miles of the ninety-nine had to be cut through land.

PUZZLES OLD VOLUME.

Translated at Ethnology Bureau After Many Others Fail.

Two books of 300 years ago, bound in the quaintest parchment, have given up their secrets, after expert linguists and ethnologists pondered many weeks in a vain effort to determine their origin.

Many languages were consulted, Arabic, Sanscrit, Malay, Japanese, Russian and languages that have traces of Latin, but the chiography within the covers of these musty volumes compared with none of them.

The American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia gave it up. Savants and sages of other literary societies failed in their efforts to elucidate the strange language. The books were finally referred to the United States Bureau of Ethnology. Prof. Cyrus Thomas withdrew the veil.

"It is the Cakchiquel language," said Mr. Thomas, spoken by the Indians of Guatemala. "One of the books was on Bible history and the other a collection of Lenten sermons, written in the sixteenth century by the missionary priest, Father Domingo Vico, who spent many years among the Indians. It is believed that when the Spanish Fathers undertook to translate religious works into the Cakchiquel tongue they found the Latin alphabet inadequate to express the curious accents of the Indians, and they supplied the letters."

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