

**A WASTED SALUTE**

Naval Powder, Pomp and Splendor and a Fizzle.

**A SURPRISE FOR FARRAGUT.**

The Admiral, With His Assembled Staff, Was Under the Impression That He Was About to Greet a Military Guest, but He Was Mistaken.

A group of officers were "swapping" stories at the Army and Navy club in Washington one night when one was reminded of an amusing incident that occurred in connection with the stay of the flagship Monongahela at Pensacola Bay when Farragut was on board.

The old fighter had been very busy the week before paying official calls on the mainland, and among those who had entertained him was General Canby. When, therefore, word was received that the general would visit the ship the next day the admiral was determined to have everything in readiness to receive him in a style becoming his rank.

The old boat was scrubbed and holystoned from stem to stern, the brass work was given an extra rub, and things generally were put into the best of order. The captain of the marines had a special inspection of his company, and not a spot of rust or a dull helmet spike escaped his notice.

Bright and early the next morning the admiral's launch was sent off to bring the general aboard. At the last moment it was discovered that there was no fruit for luncheon, and Pomp, the admiral's cook, was sent in the dingy to get some.

Pomp was a character in his way and had been with the admiral for many years. He was very proud of what he called his military bearing and wore his beard carefully trimmed to a point. His hair and beard were nearly white, and, although he was sixty years old, he ruled the other negroes with a rod of iron.

By 10 o'clock every one was standing by in full dress, when the quartermaster came aft and reported that the admiral's launch was returning. The officer of the deck walked to the rail and took a squint at the boat through his glasses. A man clad in blue uniform was seated in the admiral's cane chair in the stern, but as the gunwale struck him just below his shoulder and the awning hid his head the officer of the deck was not certain that it was General Canby until as the wind lifted the edge of the awning he caught a glimpse of a gray beard.

Word was passed that the general was coming. The crew were beat to quarters, the marine guard paraded, and the gun squad, detailed to fire the salute, took their stations. Everything was in readiness, and the admiral and his staff stood at the head of the gangway to receive the guest. A hush of expectancy settled over the ship.

The boat drew nearer. Just as the launch scraped alongside, boom, boom, came the salute from the guns. "Present arms!" came the command to the guard, and at a sign from the flag officer the band struck up "Hail to the Chief."

Amid all this military pomp and splendor the occupant of the launch was slowly clambering, feet foremost, and just as the last gun was fired he stood erect at the top of the gangway. It was the admiral's cook with a bag of fruit in each hand! The honors intended for a general had been rendered to old Pomp! As the situation dawned on the men even discipline could not check a general shout of laughter. The old admiral himself laughed until he could laugh no longer.

It seemed that in some way the dingy had gone off and left the old negro and that he managed to convince the coxswain that "Marse Farragut was just bound to have dat fruit befo' de general came."

**PERFORMING LIONS.**

Perils That Come With Managing Those Vicious Animals.

I asked Captain Bonavita once what he considered his most dangerous moment when he performed with his twenty-seven lions. He said that he thought it was when he first entered the arena. The moment before, when he had to drive this great herd of lions in, was almost as bad, but the first few minutes when the crowd of lions entered were terribly uncertain and undoubtedly the most dangerous.

**NAPOLÉON'S POLICE.**

An Incident That Shows How Closely They Were Watched.

During the reign of Emperor Napoleon I. at a dinner in Paris the conversation turned upon the emperor and his government. One of the company remarked that he was a great man, but was too fond of war. When the party broke up a gentleman who was present requested to speak in private to the person who had made that observation. "Sir," said he, "I am sorry for it, but I must request you to go with me to the police."

"Why?" said the other in the greatest apparent alarm. "I have said nothing against the emperor but what every one must acknowledge, that he is too fond of war. There can be no harm in that."

"With that I have nothing to do. You must go with me to the police."

The other now began to show the strongest symptoms of fear. He entreated the police agent in the most pathetic language to have compassion on him. The other, however, stood unmoved by all his solicitation, when suddenly the man rose from his knees and burst into a laugh, to the utter astonishment of the police agent.

"You think you have caught me," said he. "You are a spy of the police. So am I, and I was put over you to see whether you would do your duty."

**CHOOSING A PRESIDENT.**

Early Methods That Paved the Way to National Conventions.

History records that George Washington was chosen president of the United States without first having been nominated and even without an opposing candidate. So was his successor in office, John Adams. In the language of the street the presidency was in the case of each of these distinguished patriots "handed to him on a silver platter."

In the early days president choosing, according to the primitive way, was as simple compared to modern methods as a kindergarten exercise beside a course in four dimension mathematics. Since then the changes, though gradual, have been marked and have led up to our present complicated convention nominations that make the electoral college but a mechanical device for registering the popular decision as between rival party organizations.

It was the fluke that almost installed Aaron Burr as president instead of Thomas Jefferson that forced the initial modifications of the plan of president choosing agreed upon by the framers of the constitution.

Originally members of the electoral college were to vote for two persons, the one receiving the highest number of votes to be president and the next highest to be vice president.

The danger of a succession that would pull the political lever each time from one side to the other made imperative the change by which the electors should vote for only one person for president and for another for vice president.

Two or three object lessons, too, of irresponsible and haphazard action by the electoral college, throwing the choice of president to the house or of vice president to the senate, because no one had a majority of the votes cast, showed the necessity of centering the efforts of the newly aligned political parties each on a single presidential ticket and of imposing on the members of the electoral college a moral obligation to cast their ballots uniformly for the nominees of the party which had elected them.

The forerunner of our national nominating convention was the caucus or conference of members of congress of the same political faith who got together on their own initiative and without any mandate from their constituents assumed to advise as to who, in their judgment, was entitled to be recognized as the party standard bearer.

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