

Bellefonte, Pa., August 30, 1907.

## ONE BOLD PIECE OF WORK.

The Way Two Persistent Tariff Dodgers Scared a Ship's Captain and Escaped the Inspectors-A Poll Parrot That Told Tales Out of School.

In the early nineties of the last century the precautions observed by the officers of the United States treasury department in preventing or rather attempting to prevent the successful smuggling of dutiable goods into this country were as adequate in their scope and as rigidly applied as they are today. This means that the achievements of two smugglers, who may be called Harry White and Richard Bergen, need by no means be regarded as insignificant. For years they plied their trade upon the various transatlantic liners, and when at length their system was laid bare through the acumen of government agents, their ingenuity still served to prevent the just punishment of many other of-

The smuggling White and Bergen did was confined to trunks full of nickel or silver plated German and Swiss watches, English cutlery, woolens and tweeds. In the aggregate, however, it may safely be ventured that the revenue of the nation suffered more through these two men than through the occasional successes of

fenders.

diamond smugglers. Inevitably of course as their triumphs increased in duration and proportion, the leak forced itself upon the notice of the customs officers. White and Bergen did not know this. Agents of the treasury department in England and on the continent were set to work. and eventually suspicion was fastened upon Bergen, who was in London engaged in the wholesale purchase of the

The government agents watched Bergen for a fortnight. One of them was never far off when a purchase was made, and when the object of suspicion booked on a certain liner that fact, together with a complete list of the dutiable articles in his possession, was cabled to Washington. The vessel was due past Sandy Hook on May 16, 189-, and the custom house inspectors had prepared a distinguished welcome for the man whom they had long regarded as their special bete noire.

Bergen was accomplished and genial. frequented the smoking room night and day and was popular with card players and the passengers in general. One morning when the steamer was a few miles east of Fire island there came a cry from the lookout, "Man in bow!" The captain descried a man standing up in a small sloop, the mast of which was shattered and the craft somewhat down by the head. She was drifting to sea, and the captain signalcourse a trifle and finally came near enough to the occupant of the sailboat to throw him a line, by which, wet and bedraggled, he was hauled to the deck, amid the cheers of the passengers. If Bergen felt surprise as he saw his fellow conspirator White sprawled on deck, he gave no indication of it. In due time the ocean waif disappeared from among the passen-

Developments were not long delayed. The liner was approaching the Sandy Hook light vessel when Bergen, wild of eye, with hair disheveled and cheeks flushed, sought the privilege of an immediate and private interview with the ship's chief executive. He was taken into the chart room, where, falling on his knees before the captain, he begged him never to divulge what he was about to tell, and then he unfolded a terrible plot which he had conceived of destroying the vessel and her pas-

He was a Fenian, he said, and had been selected by his comrades to place an infernal machine in the hold of the British vessel. Clockwork was attached to the bomb, he declared, and it was timed to go off within twenty minutes. He had remained firm in his deadly venture throughout the trip, but now at the crucial moment a little boy with whom he had played about deck and had grown to love had swerved him from his purpose. He said that the bomb was contained within a huge be watched by holding the egg to the

leather trunk, and he begged the captain to have it heaved overboard before the mechanism ticking away the life of the ship should have time to do its work.

The captain was a man of action. and before the last words were out of Bergen's mouth he was on deck, summoning the watch to quarters.

"Into the baggage room all of you," he roared, "and jack every piece of baggage on deck!"

The crew set to work. Trunk after trunk was hauled out, while Bergen stood beside the captain, shivering in excess of emotion. Suddenly he caught the officer by the arm.

"That's it!" he cried, pointing to an enormous trunk.

"All right," replied the captain. "Now, then, men," pointing to the designated piece of baggage, "over with it, and in a hurry! Heave it way out! If any part of it hits this ship you're all dead

men! Over now!" As the liner slid into quarantine two secret service agents and a dozen custom house inspectors hurried up the ladder fr m the revenue cutter. Nothing was said to Bergen until the declarations of the passengers were sign-

ed, wherein it was stated that Bergen had no dutiable goods. Then the suspected smuggler was surrounded by

half a dozen inspectors. No man in the group was less agitated than Bergen, smiling, puffing easily upon a black cigar and returning look for look with level eyes. Why had he not declared his baggage? That was an easy question. He had no baggage. But the officers knew better. They even had a description of the trunk, and thus armed the captain was ordered to open the baggage compartment. When the revenue men recited their reasons for this demand, with a description of the trunk they expected to find, a great white light dawned upon the skipper's mind, and the detectives swore vainly as they realized that though their quarry was run down, all the evidence against him was gone.

Once there lived in one of the foreign | the with the man he had disturbed, an The York a learned ami-

the market of anything. infrequently his researches took him abroad. In fact, he was a regular voyager to Europe, spending the greater part of his sojourn invariably in France, whence he returned with many quaint and curious birds, stuffed, mounted, ready for exhibition. This savant and his birds became so familiar to the customs inspectors that they finally examined his baggage and his stock in the most perfunctory way.

Once when in Paris the ornithologist picked up a wonderful talking parrot which he purchased at the owner's price and made a pet of. He was fond of talking, and the bird was speedily taken into his confidence. Yet through all the grim fact that Poll would be worth more to him dead than alive constantly obtruded itself, so much so small boat in distress off the port that several times a day he said to the parrot, "Poll, pretty Poll, when you are dead I shall stuff you full of nice fat diamonds and take you to Amer-

In good season the ornithologist, with ed for full speed astern, altered his his collection of stuffed birds and his parrot, set sail for New York on one of the French liners leaving Havre. At the pier several inspectors greeted him as an old acquaintance, and one of them fumbled carelessly among the various trunks and boxes, until eventually Poll, sitting placidly in her cage, was brought to light.

> "Ah, a parrot!" said the inspector. "Can she talk, professor?" "Ah!" exclaimed the savant delightedly. "Can she talk? Well, maybe!"

> He crooked forefinger at the bird.

which opened her bill-and talked: "Poll-Poll-Polly-pretty Poll, when you are dead-when you are dead-are dead-are dead, I shall stuff you full of-full of-I stuff-stuff-stuff you full of diamonds."

The rest was easy for the inspectors. -Lawrence Perry in New York Trib-

## The Chick In the Egg.

Almost every one knows that if a hen's egg is kept under suitable conditions for about three weeks a fully formed and developed chick will emerge from the shell, but when a fresh egg is opened no sign of an organism is present. However, at one side of the yolk is a minute cell which contains the vital principle of the future fowl, and, strange as it may seem, this cell begins to eat the contents of the eggshell and transforms them into tissues of the chick. This process may

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light, when the developing of the chick may be followed from hour to hour. When the chick comes out of the shell it is not dependent on its parent's body for food, but is capable of picking up worms and seeds and digesting them. It will be noticed that the hen supplies enough material in an egg to produce a fully formed progeny, and the chick is not started out in life with imperfectly formed or-

North American Review.

gans .- Dr. Henry Dwight Chapin in

A Tax Scheme That Failed. Switzerland has always prided itself on its independence, and in fiscal matters this proud spirit, which will brook no interference with the rights of the individual, even by the state in quest of revenue, has sometimes been exhibited in curious ways, says the Pall Mall Gazette. As the inquisitorial methods of income tax collectors are abhorrent to the freedom loving Swiss, boxes were once or twice set up in several cantons to receive the voluntary contributions of loyal citizens. It was hoped that this method of relying on the public spirit of the people would prove successful in raising money for public ends; but, alas for human nature, in the course of a few years the collectors on opening the boxes found nothing but-trouser buttons. So the voluntary system, after fair trial, had to be reluctantly abandoned in favor of a declaration of capital and income, which is liable to official investigation.

Maddening. A gentleman was attending a lecture one evening when he saw, two seats ahead of him, a man whom he took to be an acquaintance. Having no other way to attract his attention. he asked a stranger sitting next to him to poke the supposed acquaintance with his umbrella. As the disturbed man turned his head the gentleman discovered that he was not the person he had supposed, so he fastened his gaze attentively on the lecturer, leaving the man with the umbrella to setwho and difficult task. At

"Yes." "And why did you ask me?"

"I wanted to see whether you would do it!" was the reply. The Letter G. The letter G furnishes us a curious bit of orientalism. Its Hebrew name is gimel, camel, from the resemblance

of the Hebrew character to the head and neck of that animal. The character was thus almost certainly derived from a picture of that animal, which, reduced to a hieroglyphic and then simplified, still distantly indicates the shape of the head and neck of the beast of burden familiar to every dweller in eastern lands.

"There is no use trying to deny it," said one man to another. "Blims is badly married. I hate to say it, but it's so.

"How do you know?" "By a talk I have just had with him.'

"Does he complain?" "No. That's the pathetic part of it. He was telling me how good natured and clever his wife is because this morning she showed him how to fasten his braces to his trousers with a hairpin."-London Titbits.

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