

A Case of Human Justice.

(By Alan Heresdale.)

Reading incidents connected with the part taken by Russia in the great European war brings back to me my own part in the fate of a single Russian person years ago.

My attention was arrested by a girl not over eighteen years of age. She fixed her eyes on mine for a moment, and in that brief glance I read a tale which made my heart bleed.

But I did. Six years after this meeting I was in London. One evening I attended the opera and, looking up from the parquette at one of the boxes, there was the girl I had seen on her way to Siberia.

When the war broke out I returned to Russia as correspondent for an English journal and accompanied the army that moved against the Austrian frontier.

When I had seen all I could stand I went to the rear, where the wounded were being carried and, bending over the litter on which rested a dying soldier, who should I see in the uniform of a Red Cross nurse but the woman who had passed me on her way to Siberia and at the opera in London.

Again she was changed. At my first meeting with her she was a beginner in a life of sacrifice; at the second she had seemed out of place in the gay world.

She remained beside him while he drew a few long breaths, and when they ceased she arose, with a momentary sadness on her face, to devote herself to another butchered by her fellow men.

As the Times Change. In the sixties the customary proposal was, "Will you be mine?" Very faintly signs are showing that men will yet say, "May I be yours?"

When the newly decorated girl left the ground she passed very near me. She was the girl I had first met on her way to Siberia and again at the opera in London.

TOP OF THE WORLD

Nature's Skyscraper That Towers High Above All Others.

THE GIANT MOUNT EVEREST.

This Still Unconquered Peak is in a Wild Country That is Extremely Difficult to Traverse and Has So Far Defied the Surveyors of India.

For many years the East Indian government has prohibited any attempt at the ascent of Mount Everest. As long ago as 1902 six European Alpinists set out for India to view the world from the top of its highest mountain.

The nearest approach of a railroad toward Mount Everest is about 100 miles away. To the north of this railroad terminal is a succession of parallel ranges of the Himalayas separated by deep valleys.

The surveyors of India have never been nearer than eighty miles from Mount Everest. Some of the valleys are peopled by a few wild tribes who fiercely resent the intrusion of any strangers.

When the ascent of Mount Everest is finally made it will probably be on the side of Tibet, whose southern boundary is not far from the mountain, but by her agreement with China the Indian government is bound to keep explorers from crossing into Tibet from India.

Some interesting facts about Mount Everest may not generally be known. Many persons have wondered how the determination of the height of Mount Everest could be so exact that its elevation is fixed at precisely 29,002 feet.

But the geographical survey of India informed the world in 1908 that Mount Everest is higher than it was computed to be by those six trigonometrical determinations.

Why is it, then, that this latest result of the scientific computation of the height of Mount Everest has not yet appeared in books and maps? It is because the Indian survey is not convinced that the final determination has been reached.

This decision certainly commended itself. It would be more vexatious than useful to change the figures now and then in order to add or subtract a few feet as the latest determination of the mountain's height.

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Children think not of the past nor of what is to come, but enjoy the present time, which few of us do.—La Bruyere.

JAPANESE PATIENCE.

A Strong Man's Challenge to an Artist and the Result.

Mariyama Okyo was the founder of the naturalistic school of Japanese painting. He was born in 1735 and died in 1795.

Tanikaze Kajimosuke was a champion wrestler. One day he called on Mariyama Okyo and proposed a trial of strength, each according to his own line of pursuit.

Now it was Okyo's turn. He gave lessons to his pupils as usual, but spent every available minute in his private atelier, working very far into the night.

At last, after four months had passed, the wrestler said to the painter, "If you cannot show me your work today I think it is only fair to consider myself as the winner of the contest."

"I have finished the work," answered Okyo, with a smile. And he presented to Tanikaze a roll of silk.

"This is a picture of the bow you received from the emperor when you had the honor of wrestling in the palace grounds.

So saying he led Tanikaze to his atelier and emptied a large box full of papers and rolls of silk that he had spoiled in his endeavor to draw in a single sweep of the brush a straight line over six feet in length.

The Forum was originally a market place and only by degrees became the center of Roman civic and political life. About B. C. 470 it became the place of assembly of the people in their tribes and was gradually adorned with temples and other great public buildings.

Working the Air Brake. Contrary to the general impression, the air pressure used in the air brake on railroad cars is applied to hold the brake shoes away from the car wheels.

The Great Chain. The "great chain," the links of which were two and one-half inches square and one foot long, each link weighing 140 pounds, was stretched across the Hudson river at West Point, just below Fort Clinton, May 1, 1778.

Breaking It Gently. He had just been accepted. "Does your father know I write poetry?" he asked anxiously.

You Know Him. "Now, old fellow, I want to tell you my side of the whole case."

Tears of Recreation. "Do you ever make your wife cry?" "Sure. I buy her matinee tickets to see every emotional actress who comes to town."

The Houseman Inheritance

By HENRY HOLMES

Caspar Houseman many years ago came from the Rhine region of Germany to the United States, bringing his wife and children with him.

Houseman brought means with him from the fatherland and put it all into a home directly back of the present town of Catskill. There is nothing now left of his house except a few stones that formed the basement.

Houseman's wife died soon after he came to this country, and soon after her death he married a widow with children. This made two sets of children, Houseman's and those of his second wife, living together.

From all accounts that have come down to us, it seems likely that these two parties pulling upon him in opposite directions did affect his sanity.

Of course this brought about a lawsuit as to the disposition of the property, for such a will was not legal. Houseman's children claimed the property, his widow claimed it, and her children claimed it.

The two families remained under the same roof, for neither would surrender the occupation of the property. They were quarreling one day, their voices extending nearly to the river, some ten or fifteen miles away, when a man was seen standing at the gate quietly surveying the premises.

"I have come over from Germany," he replied, "to claim an inheritance. Is this the property of Caspar Houseman, deceased?"

"Well, I am Louis Brackenthaler of Bingen. Caspar Houseman sent me shortly before he died a will leaving his property to me."

He drew a will from his pocket written in Houseman's handwriting and bearing his signature. All looked at it aghast, for they knew well the testator's writing, and it was his.

One would expect to find the will on file in the surrogate's office. I got the story from a German barber at Catskill while he was shaving me, and as soon as he had finished I went to the courthouse and made inquiry there for it.

The barber who told me the story has no more doubt that Brackenthaler was the devil and had claimed his own share than the tonic he put on my bald head would restore the hair that formerly grew there.

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