

BRAVE TARS OF 1848.

HOW JACK CAPTURED MEXICO AND LET IT GO AGAIN.

Use Sam in Those Days Went Around with a Chip on His Shoulder, and Inquiry Boards Rendered Verdicts Before They Slept.

One day, in the year 1842, Captain Thomas Catesby Jones, then at Callao in command of a strong squadron, which had been sent to the Pacific coast by the United States to prevent the seizure of California by the British, picked up a newspaper and read therein an article which declared that Mexico had just ceded California to England. Before the close of the day a British frigate came into view, and, stopping only long enough to take a brief look at the Yankee squadron, sailed northward. The appearance of the English warship and her apparent haste to move northward, seemed to Captain Jones to substantiate the newspaper story he had just read. If the British were taking possession of California he had work to do. Up went his anchors and the prows of his ships were headed Californward. He reached Monterey harbor, and at once landed and took possession of the town. The next day, very much to his chagrin, he learned that the newspaper story was a fake, and that he had taken forcible possession of a town belonging to a nation with which the United States was at peace. He promptly surrendered the town and made what amends he could.

This is an interesting fact because it shows that the first warlike act on the part of the United States against Mexico was made by a naval officer some four years previous to actual hostilities, and illustrates the distrust with which England was regarded by the United States at this period.

The official declaration of war was made four years later, on May 13, 1846; but it was not until the 8th day of the following June that Captain John Drake Sloat, commander of the Pacific squadron, then stationed at Mazatlan, Mexico, learned that war had been declared. He at once headed his ship, the frigate Savannah, for Monterey, California. When he reached this place he found the United States ships, the Warren Cyane, and Levant at anchor in the harbor. Two hundred and fifty men were ordered to land and take possession of the town, which was accomplished without opposition on the part of the Mexicans.

Captain Sloat resigned on July 23, and the more active Captain Robert Field Stockton was ordered to take his place.

Stockton proved to be the right man in the right place. He at once moved against Los Angeles, with three hundred and fifty men, and, on August 13, 1846, he entered the city without opposition. Here he organized a state government with John C. Fremont at the head. The Mexicans rallied and fought fiercely for their homes. Los Angeles and Monterey were retaken and Santa Barbara threatened. The Mexicans in the country far outnumbered the Americans; but the superior courage and skill of the Yankees eventually carried all before them. Brigadier-General Stephen W. Kearney came from Santa Fe, New Mexico, with one hundred men, and reinforced by two hundred and fifty men, marched to San Diego. An army of seven hundred men was raised for another attack, on Los Angeles, and that city was re-captured on January 15, 1847.

Captain Stockton now returned to the east, and Commodore William Bradford Shubrick, with the liner Independence, and the brig Preble, and Commodore Bridgman came to the coast. In a short time every Mexican port north of Acapulco was blockaded. The custom-house at Mazatlan was administered by the Americans and nearly \$300,000 collected on imports.

An incident will illustrate the character of the naval warfare along the Pacific coast. During the blockade at Mazatlan, Lieutenant G. W. Harrison was out with three small boats on the watch for blockade runners. In his zeal he wandered far from the protection of the guns of his ship. The Mexicans, observing this, determined to capture him and his men; and, manning four big barges with at least three times as many men as Harrison had, started after him. Harrison's men could easily outrow the Mexicans; but flying from such an enemy did not suit the bold Yankee officer, and he headed the boats straight for the Mexicans. The Mexicans' courage evaporated, and they turned about and fled for their lives the moment the American rifle balls began whistling in their ears, and this, too, when they were supported by field guns on the beach. No wonder the Yankee sailors felt themselves vastly the superior of the timid Mexicans.

The first work of the navy in the Gulf of Mexico was at the battle of Palo Alto, when Commodore David Connor, commander of the Gulf squadron, landed five hundred men to help protect the garrison left by General Taylor at Point Isabel. An attack was made on Alvarado, an important port south of Vera Cruz, also on Tusan, and a second attack on Alvarado; but these all failed. Captain Calbraith Perry, brother of Oliver Hazard Perry, commanding the Mississippi, was sent against Fontera. This is the same Perry who afterwards won distinction for opening the ports of Japan to American commerce. He had with him two steamers, the Vixen and Spitfire, and four schooners, with two hundred marines and ample crews for all the vessels. A short distance above the mouth of the river, which empties into the Gulf at Fontera, was a considerable fleet of Mexican merchant vessels. Captain Perry dashed over the

river-bar, with the steamer Vixen and two schooners; and surprised and captured the shipping. The forts and town surrendered; and Perry ascended the river seventy-two miles and took the City of Tabasco.

But the most important work of the navy in the Gulf was the assistance it rendered in the capture of Vera Cruz. In March, 1847, there were seventy ships and transports before Vera Cruz, with General Winfield Scott's army of 12,000 men on board. A combined naval and army attack was planned. The contest began on March 9, 1847, with the landing of General Scott's army. On March 23 the land forces opened fire on the city; and the next day an attack was made on the Castle, the main fortification of the city, by the navy. At 8 o'clock on the morning of the 25th the Mexicans requested that the bombardment of the city be stopped, and on March 28, 1847, the city of Vera Cruz was surrendered.

No further work of importance was done by the navy in the Gulf during this war.

The war with Mexico gave the navy few opportunities—Mexico had no navy and there was no real naval battles; but, in accomplishing the little work it was called upon to do, it showed that the same energy and courage which had made it famous in 1812 still animated its officers and men.

SHADOWGRAPH.

A New Name Given to an Old Time Amusement which All Enjoy.

Shadowgraphs, a new and coined name for our old friends, Shadows on the Wall, with which our grandfathers and great-grandfathers used to delight their grandchildren when the day was closing, and the candles were alight. These shadows, indeed, have lived through centuries, but in late years have been very much improved upon, so that now they form a most fascinating amusement for both old and young, at entertainments, at home, at schools, bazaars, etc.

Now, if my readers wish to appear as entertainers with this most innocent and delightful amusement, and they follow out the instructions here given, taking a careful survey of the drawings illustrating this article, I can assure them, as a professional entertainer, that they will succeed; but practice they must, for without it nothing can be accomplished.

First and most important is the light. The stronger the illuminant the better. For ordinary use the magic lantern comes first, as it gives a strong and steady light, and leaves the apartment in darkness. Then, we can recommend the bull's-eye lantern; and lastly, even a good candle will answer the purpose very well.

Whatever light is used, it must be placed at the back, and nearly opposite the centre of the screen. The distance therefrom you must determine for yourself, as it will depend on the size of the screen and the space you wish to cover with light.

By referring to Fig. 1, you will see the performer at work. For a screen or sheet to project the shadows on to, here is shown a wooden hoop, such as young ladies use for mild exercise at a certain season of the year, and which can be purchased cheaply in various sizes from most toy-shops.

Having got your wooden hoop, next procure a piece of calico sufficient to cover it and turn over at the edges of the hoop, and then, as you stretch it carefully, knock in small tacks to fasten it on. You may support it in any manner that pleases you; but here is illustrated a single support, which explains itself. The performer is casting the shadow of an elephant's head upon the sheet.

Meaning of Thumb-Prints.

It is curious to notice that while a great deal has been written in a scientific spirit of the value of thumb-prints as a means of identification, no one has yet found out what these lines in the thumb mean, or what they may indicate in determining character. The variations have been traced, and the fact has been noticed that no two thumbs show precisely the same lines.

The lines in the palm of the hand have been studied, too, for centuries, and the believers in the possibility of reading character from the lines in palm are numerous, even among the educated. But the sifted scientists and the palmists stop here. The thumb, they know, contains lines as remarkable and as varying as the palm. But what it all means no one knows, nor has any one attempted to guess.

When we hark back to the mystical knowledge of the ancients, it is marvellous that they, too, in many ways wiser than we, should have been baffled in reading the thumb. And at the same time they used thumb-prints as seals.

The American Girl.

American girls in good social positions are allowed more freedom than the girls of any other nation. The Europeans are shocked at the way unmarried women in America are permitted to go out alone with young men, or receive them alone at their homes, but it is not recorded that the morals of American women are any the worse for the liberty allowed them. In the European countries a young lady must be under the wing of a chaperone at every turn. Ultra fashionable society in this country is taking up the chaperone idea more and more every year—but the mass of American girls are still free to go and come as they please, and nowhere on earth are the girls so self-reliant or more virtuous.

An eminent astronomer says that for communication with the inhabitants of Mars we should require a flag as large as Ireland, and a pole 500 miles long.

THE CONTROL OF SEX.

Dr. Schenk Elaborates His Theory as to the Mother's Diet.

Vienna, May 16.—Prof. Leopold Schenk's book will be published in German to-day by the Vienna firm of Schallehn & Bollbruck. The work begins with a resume of the history of past theories of sex. The latest—that in which the result of all Dr. Schenk's observation and experiments is concentrated—is, as is known, that the nourishment of the mother that is to be is of the highest and foremost importance. Work and experience extended over a period of many years convinced him, he says, first, that he must devote his whole attention to the quantity of sugar secreted by the mother's system in normal conditions. When there is no sugar secreted, not even the smallest quantity, then a male child will be produced.

It is very important that, before there is any prospect of maternity, the future mother should have been receiving the nourishment best suited to obtain this result, and that afterward she should continue the same diet.

As to the general nature of the food to be chosen, Prof. Schenk says the mother should be given nourishment containing nitrogen and fat in sufficient quantities, and only so much carbohydrate as not to let her suffer from the lack of them. Best is wheat, and treatment two or three months beforehand, and continue it for three months afterward. Some women cannot bear this treatment with nitrogen in concentrated form. Women in the country who have been fed on vegetable food all their lives will be among these.

OUR NEW BATTLESHIPS.

The Alabama Launched from Cramp's Shipyard.

Philadelphia, May 18.—The new battleship Alabama was launched at high tide to-day at the shipyard of William Cramp & Sons. Miss Morgan, daughter of Senator Morgan of Alabama, named the vessel and broke the customary bottle of champagne over her bow. No other ceremony marked the launching, as the war regulations do not permit of entertaining a large crowd in the shipyards by the Delaware.

The Alabama is one of the three first class battleships, identical in design, which were authorized on June 10, 1896, and is the first to be launched. The others are still about half completed—the Illinois at Newport News and the Wisconsin at the Union Iron Works in San Francisco.

In length the Alabama is 368 feet, 13 feet longer than the battleship Iowa. Her beam is 72 feet 5 inches; mean draught 23 feet 6 inches, and she has a displacement at that draught of 11,525 tons. She will have two vertical three-cylinder engines, driving twin screws, estimated to develop 15,000 indicated horse power, giving a maximum speed of 18 knots.

In guns the Alabama will be the equal of any craft now afloat; the main battery comprises four 12-inch guns, and fourteen 6-inch rapid-fire guns, while the secondary battery has sixteen 6-pounders, four 1-pounders, one Colt, two field guns and four torpedo tubes.

MACKAY-DUER WEDDING.

Ceremony Performed by Archbishop Corrigan at the Duer Home.

New York, May 18.—Miss Katharine Duer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Duer of 17 West 21st street, was married at noon Tuesday to Mr. Clarence Hangerford Mackay. Archbishop Corrigan performed the ceremony, according to the ritual of the Roman Catholic church, of which Mr. Mackay is a member.

Wealth and fashion of New York turned out in a way that it has not been represented at any marriage since Miss Consuela Vanderbilt married the Duke of Marlborough.

There were such noted New York families represented as the Vanderbilts, Astors, Sloans, Gilets, the Livingstons, Van Hensselaers and Kings.

The presents were nearly all costly gems and precious stones. The Princess Colonna, the bridegroom's sister, and Mrs. John W. Mackay, his mother, presented the bride with a small fortune in jewels.

Spanish News from Manila.

London, May 18.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard says:

"Very conflicting news has reached Madrid from official and private sources concerning the state of affairs in the Philippines. Captain General August seems confident that he will be able to resist the American war vessels for some time. His reports as to the dispositions of the garrisons and inhabitants are excellent. The principal difficulties are the rise in prices, the scarcity of provisions and the unsettled state of the interior of the country.

General August hopes to overcome these directly relief comes from Spain, he is also allowed to promise to grant the natives a part of the reforms demanded by the leaders of the insurrection, which were submitted to Marshal Primo Rivera during his governor generalship. Spain is disposed to go far in conceding administrative and municipal reforms, but she cannot easily comply with the native aspirations as regards the vast property and influence of the religious orders in the Philippine and other archipelagos.

Pennsylvania Governorship.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 17.—A dispatch from Avalon, N. J., where Senator Quay is spending a few days at State Senator Becker's cottage, says that after a conference with State Chairman Elkin, Senator Durham and other Republican leaders, the Senator pledged himself anew to the candidacy of William A. Stone for Governor.

State Chairman Elkin stated that Mr. Stone was sure to be nominated. He said 301 of the 362 delegates have been elected, and of this number he claimed 67 are for Stone. Of the 61 yet to be elected, he said 37 would be for Stone.

The Neutrality of Mexico.

City of Mexico, May 18.—Proclamations have been issued all over the country announcing the neutrality of Mexico between Spain and the United States, and efforts have been made to prevent its discussion. The conduct of the government is frankly and energetically impartial.

High Mexican military officials continue to comment upon the advisability of the United States landing troops in Cuba declaring it to be sound strategy.

JOHN PHILLIPS, HERO.

How He Saved a Belonged Frontier Garrison.

In 1866 the Sioux, Under Their Great War Chief, Red Cloud, Would Have Massacred the Bravo Defenders if John Phillips Had Not Sent Relief.

A bill, couched in the dry, formal words of a legislative proposition, was recently introduced in Congress for the purpose of giving a pension to the widow of John Phillips. That may not interest you. But back of that bill is the story of as brave, courageous a deed as ever made glorious the record of American manhood.

It was John Phillips who rode from Fort Phil Kearny to Fort Laramie in December, 1866, and saved the latter garrison from massacre.

On the twenty-first day of December, 1866, Fort Phil Kearny, commanded by Col. H. B. Carrington, located under the shadow of the Big Horn Mountain and over 200 miles from the nearest telegraph line, was the extreme outpost in that part of the Northwest. The savage Sioux under Red Cloud had been hovering in the vicinity of the post for some time and had been seen in large numbers on Tongue River, northwest of the fort.

The Indians made attacks on the wood train a few miles north of the fort. A detachment of troops under command of Brevet-Lieut. Col. Fetterman, including two other officers and several men and a number of civilians, made a dash from the fort for the purpose of protecting the wood train. When some four miles from the fort they were surrounded by the Indians in overwhelming numbers and every man of the detachment was killed.

Years afterward the Indians said that the troops were only killed after their ammunition was exhausted.

The triumphant and bloodthirsty Sioux were commanded by Red Cloud and outnumbered the garrison by twenty to one. They surrounded the fort and an attack was hourly expected.

It was well understood by the garrison that if the Indians were successful in taking the fort it meant death for each and every one. Realizing the terribly fate that awaited them the women and children begged piteously to be placed in the powder house and blown up in case of a successful attack from the Indians.

At this juncture, when brave men felt that the only possible hope for the garrison was in sending news of their beleaguement to the nearest outside post, and not a soldier could be found who would brave the attempt to break through the savages and ride to the nearest outpost, a distance of 225 miles, John Phillips, a hardy scout and hunter, volunteered to take despatches to Fort Laramie. Placing a few biscuits in his pocket, tying on his saddle a small quantity of feed for his mount, he quietly left the post at midnight on the night succeeding the massacre, and by hard riding, and escaping many perils on the way he succeeded in reaching Fort Laramie five days later. The country across which he rode was absolutely uninhabited by white men, and the ground was covered with snow from three to five feet in depth.

His sufferings will never be told. The weather was exceedingly cold, the thermometer reaching twenty degrees below zero. When Phillips delivered his despatches at Fort Laramie hardy, brave frontiersman as he was, he fell in a dead faint. Immediately upon receipt of these despatches troops were forwarded from Fort Laramie, and the garrison at Fort Phil Kearny was relieved. For this remarkable act of gallantry and endurance, which will forever place John Phillips' name in the gallery of heroic men, he was never in any way paid by the general Government.

In the years immediately following this heroic ride, John Phillips was employed in various capacities at Government posts. The Sioux had sworn that they would be revenged upon him. He was continually hunted and harassed by them because he had rescued from their grasp the garrison at Fort Phil Kearny. He was now broken in health by the exposure and strain of his long and perilous ride. One night, feeling that his end was near, he called to his bedside his wife and child. Taking the hand of each, he pulled them nearer to him. They heard him faintly whisper: "I did the best I could," and he was dead.

Fake Clergyman.

Rev. J. W. Connor is the name of a clever swindler, who represents himself as a clergyman, and who is operating throughout this region. He says he is stationed at Northumberland, and claims to be an Episcopal minister, having charge of the parish at the place. It has been learned that the Episcopal faith is not represented in that town. He faked the business people of Shamokin and was traced as far as Mt. Carmel, but left the latter town for Shenandoah, where he will attempt to operate.—Shenandoah Herald.

Advertisement for Walter Baker & Co.'s Breakfast Cocoa, featuring an illustration of a woman and text describing the product's quality and availability.

Advertisement for Alexander Brothers & Co., listing various goods like cigars, tobacco, and candies, and mentioning their agents and location in Bloomsburg Pa.

Advertisement for W. H. Brower's Carpets, Matting, and Oil Cloth, highlighting a large lot of window curtains in stock.

Advertisement for Demorest's Family Magazine, offering a subscription for \$1.00 and listing the magazine's content and publisher information.

Advertisement for The Columbian, offering a special clubbing offer for prompt subscriptions at a reduced rate.

Advertisement for April in History, detailing historical events from April 18th, 1775, to April 15th, 1873.

Advertisement for Try Allen's Foot-Ease, describing the product's benefits for foot pain and its ease of use.

Advertisement for Ocean Telegraph Stations, discussing the progress of transatlantic telegraph cables and the challenges involved in their construction.