

A "Whiskers" Come-back?



Horace Greeley



Edwin M. Stanton



Napoleon III



Ex-Kaiser Wilhelm



Gen. A.L. Burnside

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

ARE whiskers about to stage a come-back on the face of American manhood? Wait, now, before you give a scornful reply to that question! For there are certain signs to indicate that the idea is not so fanciful as it may appear to be at the first superficial thought.

Do our newspapers accurately reflect contemporary American life? Consider, then, two newspaper items. One reads as follows:

Appropos the rumor that whiskers are about to do a come-back as a companion piece to bustles, also reported to be staging a come-back, this should bring about a revival of the pottery industry by stimulating trade in mustache cups.—AUXVASE (Mo.) Review.

The other goes into the subject more exhaustively and says:

Taffeta and ruffles have been worn before, and still there was no wide outbreak of whiskers. We had the long skirt for a while, too, and few whiskers returned. But it will be a surprising and an unhistoric thing if we can have black mitts for evening and billowy skirts that sweep the ground and these coy puff sleeves and lace bonnets and now long-skirted bathing suits, even—and never a burnside to go with them. The wax models in the windows of shop and shoppe alike cry out for bearded company. A woman in such apparel not only needs an escort to the soiree, she needs a doughty blade with whiskers. Therefore, he will appear, and the motion picture doctor will no longer be alone in his Van Dyke.

There are portents, political and musical. A Paris dispatch informs us that "the present French cabinet, which consists of 22 ministers and sub-ministers, shows not a single shaven member," and in addition, four chief representatives at the London parley brought mustaches, while the fifth has a beard. Locally, every one is aware of Chief Justice Hughes, Mr. J. Ham Lewis, Louis Gravoire, Doctor Britton of the New York botanical garden and Ernest Boyd, critic incarnadine, and finally several tenors have appeared in those mustaches which we associate with barytones.

Inevitably we must return to our mutton chops if the spring fashions continue back toward 1820. The short bodice, the sprigged frock, the chignon and the gaited black glove look timid with no protective whiskers above them, yet here they are. And when whiskers come back, mark your grandfather's words, so will chaperons.—New York Herald Tribune.

There you have it—from both the rural and the metropolitan press, representing both the country and the city! However true it may be that the safety-razor-using, smooth-faced American appears to be in the majority today, it is beyond belief that he may choose to return to the be-whiskered glory of the past? History shows that the facial adornment of the ruler of a nation usually sets the hirsute styles of the citizens of that nation. Now, of course, in a democracy such as ours the citizens are not likely to imitate the example of their President as are the subjects of a monarchy to follow the mode set by their king or emperor.

But the fact remains that during most of our history Americans have in general followed the style in regard to whiskers or no whiskers as set by our Presidents, although that may have been only a coincidence. Our early Presidents from Washington down to and including Buchanan were all smooth-faced and most Americans of their times were, too. Abraham Lincoln was the first President with a full beard and during his administration the golden age of whiskers began. Not the least of the elements which made the Civil war so picturesque were the magnificent mustaches, beards and sideburns which adorned the generals and statesmen, both Union and Confederate, during that period. A Civil war general, or even a colonel, a major or a captain without whiskers—well, the picture simply isn't complete, that's all!

Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson, was smooth-shaven, it is true, but his successors more than made up for his deficiency in carrying on the tradition. With the inauguration of Grant, whiskers came definitely into their own and for the next thirty years they were much in evidence in both the White House and the Capitol. Grant, Hayes, Garfield and Harrison all wore full beards. Arthur wore a mustache and sideburns and Cleveland wore a mustache. McKinley's smooth-shaven face marked the end of the bearded era, but Roosevelt and Taft symbolized a sort of a hang-over with their mustaches.

The present smooth-shaven era began with Woodrow Wilson and has continued through the administrations

of Harding and Coolidge down to the election of Hoover. Now that we have had nearly twenty years of smooth-shaven Presidents is the pendulum about to swing back again, and give us another bearded President to set the style for his fellow-Americans? And if whiskers are to stage a come-back, what are to be the most popular styles?

Look at the portraits of the be-whiskered notables shown above and pick out your own style. The full, flowing "chest-protector" beard worn by Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war in Lincoln's cabinet, is not only typical of the style most popular in the American golden age of whiskers but it is one of the oldest styles. As will be seen by data presented later in this article, it goes back to very ancient times. If, however, it would overtax the patience of the average American to wait for the growth of such a luxuriant crop, the hairy collar style, with the ostrich plume effect, as exemplified by Horace Greeley, the great editor, might be less trouble to cultivate.

Many Americans may not remember the services of the gallant Gen. Ambrose Everett Burnside during the Civil war, but they are not likely to forget what he contributed to American facial adornment. They are sometimes referred to as "mutton chop whiskers," thereby depriving the general of credit which properly belongs to him. For, as everybody knows, the right name for them is obtained by reversing the name of the man who made them popular and calling them "sideburns." Similarly, his imperial—and ill-fated—majesty, Napoleon III, made popular in France the combination of sharp-pointed mustache and lower-lip whiskers, or "goatee," which goes by the name of "imperial." It is doubtful if the average American would care for this "foreign invention"—preferring one of the "made-in-America" brands—any more than he would care for the sharply up-turned mustache of the ex-kaiser of Germany. One fault of the latter type—at least, there is a tradition to this effect—is that it requires too much attention, such as putting it in a cloth framework at night so that it will not sag, droop or otherwise lose its perky uprightness.

The United States, however, is not the only country in which there are signs of a whiskers come-back. From France comes word that a well-known arbiter of styles on the Parisian boulevards has started a campaign for the return of the beard which he regards as the "outward sign of a mature mind." Thus is another historical cycle completed, for in early times the beard was considered by all nations as a sign of strength and manhood, carefully cherished and almost regarded as sacred. More than that, its removal was considered a particularly degrading form of punishment. In the second book of Samuel in the Old Testament is related the story of the servant when King David sent to Hanun, ruler of the Ammonites, to comfort him for the death of his father. Their reception is described as follows:

And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkst thou that David hath honoured thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out and to overthrow it?

Wherefore Hanun took David's servants and shaved off the one-half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away.

Among the Moslems the beard was also held in great respect and the strongest oath that a Mohammedan could utter was, "By the beard of the Prophet!" People of this religious belief took great care of their beards, habitually carrying combs to comb it and keep it in order. It was their custom to do this after prayers, while still out on their knees, and if any hairs fell out they immediately picked them up and preserved them for burial with their owners. They also dyed their beards, usually red, not only because dye of that color was easily obtainable, but because it was nearly like the golden yellow, the color recommended by Mohammed, who hated black, the color which the Persians dyed their beards.

In France and Spain the wearing of beards followed the styles set by the monarchs of those countries. The beard was commonly worn in France until the time of Louis XII, who, being young and beardless, set a new style and the fashion changed. In Spain the royal Spanish courtiers removed their beards when Philip V, who was unable to grow a beard, came to the throne.

In Russia Peter the Great issued a royal edict compelling his subjects to shave or pay a tax on their beards in proportion to the rank of the wearer. Henry VIII of England attempted a similar tax in England, but found it difficult to enforce the law and later gave it up. As a result the reigns of Elizabeth and James I were characterized by the wildest extravagance in beard growing with some men clipping their beards into as many formal shapes as the old-fashioned box hedges. Under the reign of Charles I the Van Dyke beard, named for the famous painter, became popular, only to be followed by a smooth-faced era during the Eighteenth century and down to the days of "our dear queen," Victoria, whose royal consort and whose son, later Edward VII, brought back the pointed beard as one of the glories of the Mid-Victorian days.

If, indeed, there is a whiskers come-back and beards once more become popular, they will bring with them vexing problems. One of them is: what to do with the beard when it is not in use—taking it for granted that a beard can be put to use, such as stroking it as an aid to cautious thought and tweaking it, either one's own or another's, to suggest violence, determination or aggressiveness. How serious this problem may be is indicated by the following incident related recently by a writer in the Boston Herald:

Some years ago a certain eminent man of New England wrote a letter to another eminent New Englander whose title to eminence is substantial and whose beard is celebrated throughout the land. It is a beard in the fullest dimensions of old New England. In the letter to this bearded New Englander the friend asked this question: When you retire at night, do you tuck the beard under the sheet, or do you leave it free outside and above the sheet?

This, we are told, caused the waver of the beard much distress. Until the matter had thus been called to his attention, he is reported to have told his friends afterward, he had never given this problem any thought. He had retired at night as other men do and had fallen gracefully into sleep untroubled and unperplexed. It never had occurred to him that there was anything complicated or puzzling about the performance. Since that letter and its question, however, he had hardly had a comfortable night's sleep, for the moment he put out the light and popped into bed he had begun to debate which disposal of his beard he might the more comfortably make—above the sheet or beneath it. By this we learn that the beard, like many another luxury in life, carries with it responsibilities and perplexities.

Wit and Humor



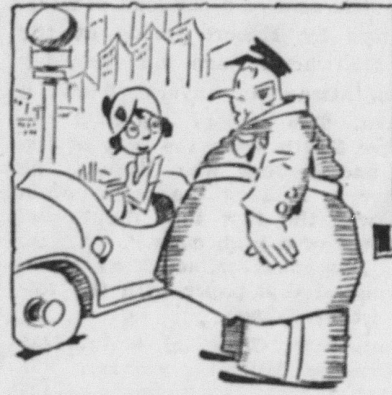
BREAKING THE BAD NEWS

"For the luvamike!" exclaimed Dad, surveying the table, "what's the big idea of pickles, potato chips and lettuce sandwiches for supper?"
"I'm just trying to get son used to the kind of meals he will get after he marries that little snip he's gone and got himself engaged to," snapped mother.

Quick Service

"Young Binghamton carries himself with a rather guilty air this morning."
"Yeah! He proposed by radio last night and the girl's family had a loud speaker on their radio and it was heard for two blocks. He was accepted twelve times already this morning."

WAITING FOR COLOR



Traffic Cop—Well, why don't you move on?
Fair Motorist—If you please, Mr. Officer, I haven't seen any colors I care for in that light yet!

The Boy With the Bad News

Although we ought to banish pain, and in kind words persist, The weather man must try in vain To be an optimist.

Disguise

Host of Fancy Dress Ball—Quite an original idea, that, coming as a milk-man.
The Other—Yes, I shan't look so conspicuous going her in the morning, what!—Humorist.

Arthur, How Could You?

Arthur—I know a man married for 30 years who stays at home every evening.
Amy (with feeling)—That is love!
Arthur—No! It's rheumatism.

Needs Travel

"Don't you think that travel broadens one's mind?"
"Yes; you should take a trip round the world."—Vienna Faun.

THE GREATEST YET



Fly—This will be the greatest yet—a nonstop flight from pole to pole!

Do You Know?

I've just found out— Perhaps you knew it— That work's just play When you love to do it!

American Plan

Visitor—Those are wonderful strawberries you have there. Do you use fertilizer on them?
Farmer—No, just cream and sugar.

A Start

"Got a zoo in your town?" asked the traveling man.
"No," replied the native, "but there is a guy staying here who is said to be a social lion, and we got a town hall that's a white elephant, besides that we got three blind tigers."

The Low-Down

Mrs. Pryer—I never size people up by the clothes they wear on the street.
Mrs. Guyer—Oh, I never do! Give me a line full of clothes every time, my dear.

Take Your Choice

The employer called his secretary.
"Here, John, look at this letter. I can't make out whether it's from my tailor or my lawyer. They're both named Smith."
And this is what John read: "I have begun your suit. Ready to be tried on Thursday. Smith."

The Usual Way

Father (proudly)—Yes, my daughter is now getting a man's wages.
Visitor—O, when did she marry?
Stray Stories.

Finds Youth's Fountain!

"JUST one thing has contributed more than anything else in my life toward making me the radiantly happy woman I am today," writes Mrs. Walter Ruehl, of Glenbrook, Conn. "If this was selling at ten cents a bottle instead of the few cents it costs, I would scrape the money together, and I don't mean maybe!"



One Happy Woman Tells Where She Discovered It

"I guess a good many others feel the same way, judging by the number of people I know who swear by this 'Fountain of Youth.'"

Millions of people all over the world have discovered this simple secret, which is nothing but giving our bodies the internal lubrication that they need, as much as any machine. After you have taken Nujol for a few days, and have proved to yourself how it brightens your whole life, you will wonder how so simple a treatment can make such a great change in your health and your happiness. The reason is this:

Regularly as clock work, Nujol clears out of our bodies those poisons (we all have them) which slow us up, make us headachy, low in our minds.

Colorless and tasteless as pure water, Nujol cannot hurt you, no

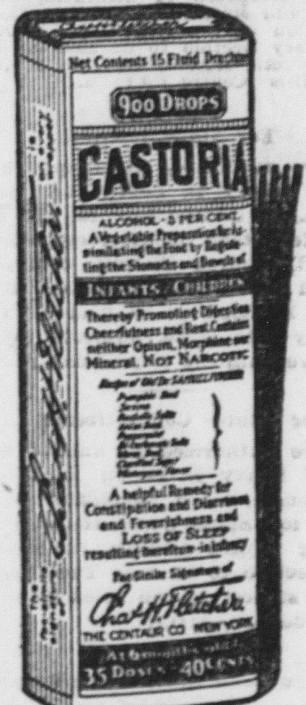
matter how long you take it. It is not a medicine. It contains no drugs. It forms no habit. It is non-fattening.

Try Nujol yourself and see how much better you feel. Get a bottle in its sealed package at any drug store and be sure it's trademarked "Nujol." It costs but a few cents—and it makes you feel like a million dollars! Start taking Nujol this very night!

Heavy Wood
Lignum vitae, one of the heaviest woods, weighs from 73 to 83 pounds per cubic foot.

One Qualification
Merry—Is your wife a good cook?
Bright—Oh, yes. She's always threatening to leave me.—Answers.

Children CRY for it



It may be the little stomach; it may be the bowels are sluggish. No matter what coats a child's tongue, its a safe and sensible precaution to give a few drops of Castoria. This gentle regulation of the little system soon sets things to rights. A pure vegetable preparation that can't harm a wee infant, but brings quick comfort—even when it is colic, diarrhea, or similar disturbance.

And don't forsake Castoria as the child grows older. If you want to raise boys and girls with strong systems that will ward off constipation, stick to good old Castoria; and give nothing stronger when there's any irregularity except on the advice of a doctor. Castoria is sold in every drugstore, and the genuine always bears Chas. H. Fletcher's signature on the wrapper.

Women always had intuition; but it was the men who gave it that name.

Wickedness is a kind of voluntary frenzy, and a chosen distraction.—Tiltonson.



Any COLD

That cold may lead to something serious, if neglected. The time to do something for it is now. Don't wait until it develops into bronchitis. Take two or three tablets of Bayer Aspirin as soon as you feel a cold coming on. Or as soon as possible after it starts. Bayer Aspirin will head off or relieve the aching and feverish feeling—will stop the headache. And if your throat is affected, dissolve two or three tablets in a quarter-glassful of warm water, and gargle. This quickly soothes a sore throat and reduces inflammation and infection. Read proven directions for neuralgia, for rheumatism and other aches and pains. Genuine Bayer Aspirin is harmless to the heart.

BAYER ASPIRIN

Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monocetacetic Acid of Salicylic Acid

Just a shake or two completes the toilet!



Always take time to dust on a little CUTICURA TALCUM as a finishing touch to your toilet. Fragrant and antiseptic, it absorbs excessive perspiration and refreshes and cools the skin, making your toilet complete. You will like it—everybody does.



Talcum, Soap, Ointment, etc., and etc. Manufacturers: Patent Drug & Chemical Corporation, Malden, Mass.