

**A VERSATILE SWINDLER.**

A New York paper relates the adventures of a fellow such as a large class of people delight to honor: The report is as follows: "A recent guest at some of the best hotels in this city has been a man who represents himself as an Egyptian of great wealth visiting this country for pleasure and for the purpose of studying American life, manners and institutions. The name which appears in large letters upon the hotel registers is Selim R. Bey. He speaks English, French and German fluently; is a mine of information concerning his pretended native country, Egypt; is accomplished, versatile, and of fine presence, and assumes an easy air of familiarity with distinguished people such as to impress those with whom he comes in contact with the belief that he is really, as he says, an intimate terms with princes, dukes and earls abroad and a man of consequence in his own country. He has had the confidence of many well known families in this city and mingled with the members on friendly terms. He has been feasted, entertainments have been given for his pleasure, and he has been the recipient of many attentions and honors.

"When he arrived in this city he went to the Windsor Hotel, had some of the best rooms in the house set apart for his use, and incurred an expense of several hundreds of dollars a week. When the bill was presented he looked at it with a calm indifference and said he would settle it when his letters of credit came. But they did not come, and the proprietors urged payment. Finally they threatened to expose him, and he succeeded in obtaining the requisite sum from the member of a family who believed his stories and whose son was acting as his private secretary. Selim R. Bey then went to the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where he soon became in arrears, and when he was forced to pay what he owed succeeded in getting the same persons to advance the money. Other persons who have trusted him are still waiting for the 'remittances' to arrive.

Some incredulous people, who have doubted the genuineness of the man's stories communicated with the police, and yesterday a letter was shown to Commissioners Erhard and Wheeler from Cairo, Egypt, which proves Selim R. Bey to be one of the most accomplished swindlers of the age. His true name is Solomon Rosenweig. He is a Syrian Jew and a native of Beirut, where he learned English, French and German, and acted as interpreter for travelers. He swindled a number of persons, and for various thefts was arrested and locked up in prison. He made his escape, and was next seen in Cairo, Egypt, where he committed many thefts and was bastinadoed. He then went to Alexandria, where he represented himself to be a Syrian of great wealth, and by the aid of forged letters obtained access to the best society. He became a visitor in one of the wealthiest families of that city, and succeeded in winning the affections of and betraying one of the daughters. When satisfied that further concealment of his true character would soon be impossible he robbed the wronged girl of her diamonds and jewels and fled to Europe. He passed some time in Paris and elsewhere on the continent, swindling the credulous on an extensive scale, and then went to London, where he cheated many hotel keepers. Becoming too well known there he came to this city and continued the same plan of operations. He has little baggage, and when Mr. Wallie, of the Windsor Hotel, seized what he had for non-payment of board he found one gold sleeve button, marked with the man's true initials, "S. R.," and cheap jewelry to the value of about fifty cents. Rosenweig is still on his travels, and there are some people who yet put faith in his stories. His record, however, is known by the police."

—A centenarian named Cloeman lives in good health at Gulich, in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. He was born on the 30th of March, 1777, and served in the French army from 1801 to 1814. He was made prisoner at Saragossa, and saved from death by a Spanish captain who understood German. He was afterwards taken by the English, and exchanged five days later. He was engaged in the battles of Austerlitz, 1805; Jena, 1806; Leipzig, Lutzen and Katzbach in 1813. The Cossacks took him prisoner at Leipzig, but eleven days afterwards he contrived to escape. His most severe sufferings, he says, were during the Russian campaign. In 1814, when in garrison at Calais, he obtained his discharge, and a year later he married. He had seven children by his first wife and eleven by his second, whom he married in 1829. His memory is good, and he enjoys talking over his campaigns.

—The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers still keep up an enthusiastic newspaper contest with the Philadelphia and Reading railroad company. Meetings have been held and are advertised to be held in Jersey City, Philadelphia and elsewhere, pledging the support of the organization to the strikers. No doubt these pledges will be carried out, but in the meantime the railroad company appears to be swinging along at its old gait, and the futility of the strike is becoming more and more apparent.

—A Canada woman bit a dog, and the dog immediately died. There has been such a prejudice against Canada women lately that, in order to get married, they have been obliged to get their teeth extracted. —Andrews Bazaar.

—A Connecticut farmer threw his lighted cigar into the dry grass and a conflagration was the result. A farmer smoking a cigar! Next we will have an organ grinder in a plug hat. —Danbury News.

—Ball Run Russell declines, on account of age, to go to the wars, and chronicle the present struggle for the London Times. The hard work during the Franco-German campaign used him up sorely.

**CATS.**

It is not often that we hear any credit rendered to the cat for either intelligence or affection; and it is therefore pleasing to be able to record two instances in which one, if not both, of these qualities is shown in a remarkable manner in this animal. A gentleman, writing from India to a friend in England a few months ago, says of a pet Persian cat: "I was lying on the sofa, drowsily perusing the newspapers, a few mornings ago, when Tom came and stood near me, mewing in a plaintive way, as if to attract attention. Not wishing to be disturbed, I waved him off. He, however, returned in a minute or so, and this time jumped on to the sofa, and looking me in the face, renewed his noise more vigorously. Losing patience, I roughly drove him away. He then went to the door of an adjoining room and stood there mewing most piteously. Fully aroused, I got up and went toward him. As I approached he made for the further corner of the room and began to show fight, bristling up and flourishing his tail. It at once struck me that there was an unwelcome visitor in the room, which Tom wished to get rid of; and sure enough, in looking toward the corner, I discovered a cobra coiled up behind a book shelf under a dressing table. The noise made by our approach aroused the snake, and he attempted to make off; but I dispatched him with my gun, which was ready loaded close by. You should have seen Tom's satisfaction. He ran between my legs, rubbing himself against them caressingly, as if to say, 'Well done, master.' The snake measured five feet seven inches in length."

The friend to whom the incident is related, after reading it to me, went on to say that some years ago, when in India with her father, the family was gathered after tea one rainy evening, listening to one of their number who was reading an interesting story. While thus engaged a cat, of which her father was very fond, jumped on to his knee, and moving around in a restless manner, began to mew in a louder key than usual. The old gentleman, as was his wont, commenced to caress the cat, expecting thereby to quiet her; but to no purpose. It showed signs of impatience by jumping down and up again, mewing vigorously the while. Not wishing to be interrupted in what was going on, he called for a servant to put the cat out of the room; but puss would not tamely submit to an indignant turn out and commenced clawing at the old man's feet. This he thought was going too far; he rose to chase the cat, but ere he had time to do so, he discovered that it was nothing less than a timely warning which puss had given him; for not far from where he sat there was, under the table, a small, venomous snake, which probably would have bitten him had he molested or trifled on it. The reptile was immediately killed and puss ceased her mewing. —Chambers' Journal.

—Cremation is securing a fashionable foothold in Indiana.

—A Boston Methodist congregation closed their church rather than to accept the new pastor that had been sent to them.

—A brother of Thomas W. Piper, the Boston murderer, has had his name changed to Raymond, on account of the family disgrace.

—A grapevine on W. G. Phelps's premises near Stockton, Cal., measures, at a distance of one foot from the ground, twenty-six inches in circumference.

—The Plate Indians do not believe in burying their dead, but the tribe living near Austin, Nev., have been compelled by the authorities to change their practice.

—A French journalist has informed his readers that Governors in the United States are in the habit of pocketing the State treasury when they get hard up.

—Some of the late Cardinal Antonelli's private papers, discovered in a very secret closet, have been, by order of the Pope, destroyed or put in the secret archives of the Vatican.

—The Widow Van Cott has begun a revival in Cincinnati, creating a marked impression from the first, although some of the city pastors opposed the movement because she was a woman.

—American-made boots are making inroads upon Europe, and the Swiss shoemakers have sounded an alarm. A Berlin paper says that American boots are sold in Switzerland at \$2.90 a pair.

—Artesian wells sank in the Colorado Desert by the Southern Pacific railroad company have struck water in great abundance. It will prove of immense value to the company, for the land is utterly sterile, lies below sea level and was supposed to be entirely destitute of hidden springs.

—A law is likely to be passed by the Massachusetts Legislature establishing a commission of women to inspect prisons and hospitals in that State. It is to consist of three women, appointed by the Governor, and having authority to examine public institutions in which women are inmates.

—The editor of the St. Louis Times shows malignant envy of the Great American Humorist, by saying of him: "If any person wants to know the truth about the Black Hills, let him watch Eli Perkin's letters, and believe the exact opposition of everything asserted by the accomplished Ananias."

—Boston is to have a "nervine hospital" for debilitated and nervous persons who are not insane. This is to be the realization of a charity planned by Seth Adams, who bequeathed \$500,000 to endow it. He was convinced that many patients became insane through companionship with confirmed maniacs in public hospitals.

—The ex-Express Eugene has long attempted to obtain indemnification from the French Government for the loss of personal property allowed to have been owned by her husband, and a portion of which is in possession of the State. Many of the pictures and other objects of art on the list were burned in the palace of the Tuileries during the riots of the Commune.

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