

AMERICAN GIRL IN LONDON.

SINGER OF SOUTHERN PLANTATION MELODIES BECOMES FAMOUS IN ENGLAND.

is to Sing Old Negro Songs to King and Queen. Has Declined Stage Career, Preferring to Sing the Native Songs of the Southland.

Another charming American girl has set the fashionable world of London by the ears. She has sung her way into their hearts and taught them the beauty of old plantation melodies until the English capital is fairly ringing with the sound of her praises.

This fortunate young woman is Miss Clara Alexander of Memphis, Tenn., and as pretty and attractive a girl as ever crossed the water to Old England. She is just now anticipating her appearance before the King and Queen of England, and when



MISS CLARA ALEXANDER.

this is accomplished, she will indeed feel that her success is complete.

A little more than a year ago some interested friend of Miss Alexander sent her on her journey to London, armed with letters to prominent members of the social world there. One of these was to the famous Mrs. John Mackay, who became her social sponsor, and practically made the clever little girl from Tennessee the toast of London drawing rooms.

Miss Alexander has never been on the stage, but from her old mammy in the south, and a score of sergents who had once been in her family, she learned the real plantation melodies, learned to sing them as only a girl who spent her early life in the real south could sing them. She learned to imitate the old ducky in all his quaint characteristics and her triumph was declared complete when she moved a fashionable audience to tears by her touching recital of a little negro poem.

W. S. Gilbert, author of "Pinafore," advised her strongly to go in for emotional acting, and Lady Bancroft, one of the shining lights of the London social world, and herself a talented actress, offered to coach the young American girl in the role of Juliet if she would study for the stage.

Lady Ludlow recently lent her splendid mansion in Portland Place for a recital by this talented American girl for which the social world of London cheerfully paid \$5 a ticket. Her services are constantly in demand and with Mrs. Mackay and other influential women to sponsor for her, this little girl from Tennessee is adding fresh laurels to her crown.

And now she is to appear before the King and Queen! The "command" which has been sent to Miss Alexander is the same as that which goes to every artist whom King Edward and Queen Alexandra wish to hear. It is in reality an invitation, but is called a "command" for the reason that an invitation from the King or Queen brooks no declination and is therefore, in a sense, obligatory. Miss Alexander breathes the life of the south in all her work and no amount of persuasion will induce her to give it up for a stage career. She is taking into London drawing rooms and even into the presence of His Majesty, King Edward VII an atmosphere of love, freedom and the pretty instincts which make of the southern girl another type of the American beauty which is ever a puzzle and yet a veritable joy to our English friends across the water.

IT PAYS TO DRESS IN STYLE.

Stirring Adventure of the Hon. Augustus Browne, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Things went very hard the other day with the Hon. Augustus Browne, of Cleveland, Ohio. As Mr. Browne stepped off a street car during the busiest hour of the day and at one of the most crowded localities in Cleveland, his well-made trousers caught on the lower step—it seems that some of the iron work was loose. Simultaneously, the conductor started the car, and the Hon. Augustus Browne at once sat down upon the Belgian blocks in a shocking manner. Moreover, the Hon. Augustus kept right along with the vehicle, towed by the left leg of his expensive trousers, and presenting a picture of unusual distress and consternation. What made it worse was the fact that the spectators on the sidewalk were disposed to be disrespectful. Mr. Browne expostulated against the treatment he was receiving, though, of course, in a perfectly dignified way,

CHINA'S ARMY OF 40,000.

FOREIGN ATTACHES WITNESSED RECENT FIELD MANOEUVERS—AMAZED AT RESULTS.

Japanese Training Apparent in Subordination and Discipline.—Mauser Rifles Used, but Cavalry Service is Inferior.

Evidence that China is shedding her skin of conservatism and is preparing to take her place with other Oriental nations, is evidenced by her first regular army manoeuvres, just ended at Shanghai. A number of diplomatic attaches, representing the military of the principal nations of the world, were present as guests of the viceroy, Yuan Shi Kai, by whom they were lavishly entertained. To those who remember the condition of Chinese troops five years ago this feat of raising an army of forty thousand men to its present efficiency is marvellous. There were some unfavorable criticisms, to be sure; but complete praise for the troops and their steadiness of discipline, the latter bearing comparison with that of European veterans.

Armed With Modern Equipment.

The scheme of the manoeuvres was the assumed invasion of Chihai by a southern force from Shantung, whose advance was opposed by the northern army. The infantry were armed with Mauser magazine rifles, with short dagger bayonets. Officers carried sword, revolver and field glass. The private's kit weighed fifty-four pounds, knapsacks being of Japanese pattern. The pioneers carried picks, shovels and saws.

The cavalry were mounted on small, Mongolian horses, and carried Mauser carbines, sabres and revolvers. This is regarded by the military observers as being the weakest branch of the army.

There were no tom-toms, no stink-pots, fire works, gods on poles, or hideous masks, in which the Chinese soldier of the past placed his whole reliance.

Hand of Japan Discovered.

This wonderful transformation in a few years, from an unorganized mob of fanatics to a well equipped, intelligent army of defense, is said to be due largely to Japanese influences. One attache remarked that he had noticed at least twenty Japanese officers among the troops. Many of the cannon are of Japanese type, and the knapsacks are Japanese in design. The fine hand of Japan is seen at every turn.

The artillery consisted of field guns of various types, and Japanese mountain guns carried on mule back. The guns were served excellently, and this branch of the army appeared to be efficient, though there was no signaling apparatus, and no range finders.

Each regimental commissariat included thirty-two wagons, German in pattern, but poorly constructed. The rations consisted of rice, 1 1/2 pounds; cabbage, 6 ounces; salted vegetables, 6 ounces, and meat 6 ounces, carried in Japanese haversacks.

All things considered, the progress of China in her military organization appears to be wonderful. With a few more years of effort, aided by Japanese influence, with her inexhaustible natural resources and her multitude of men to draw upon for raw material, China will be a formidable enemy and a powerful ally in the development of the East.

Texas Sulphur Deposits.

Texas, a State which claimed the attention of the whole country as a cattle State, and as a petroleum State, will probably soon become remarkable as a sulphur State. In the remarkable country in El Paso county, north of the Texas Pacific Railroad, geologists compute that there are ten million tons of 40 per cent. native sulphur ore available and almost in sight. The sulphur area, which has been explored and surveyed covers about ten thousand acres and the deposit has an average thickness of nine and one-half feet. It has been recently reported that this sulphur field has been bought by Illinois capitalists, who have associated with them in the enterprise a number of European capitalists. At present no railroad is near the deposits, the nearest station being Toyah, twenty miles to the northwest. The intervening country presents no obstacles in the way of railroad construction, the grades being low.

It is calculated that the United States annually consumes 500,000 tons of sulphur. Much of the sulphur used in the United States is imported from Italy, the tonnage brought in from that country varying from 100,000 to 250,000 tons a year. The American State which leads in the production of sulphur is Louisiana, but a vast amount of sulphur is obtained from the pyrites mines in Louisa county, Virginia. It is said that the visible supply of sulphur is sufficient for the requirements of trade for the next twenty years. The sulphur trade of the world is practically monopolized by the Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur Company, Limited, of London.

An Enfeebled Giant.

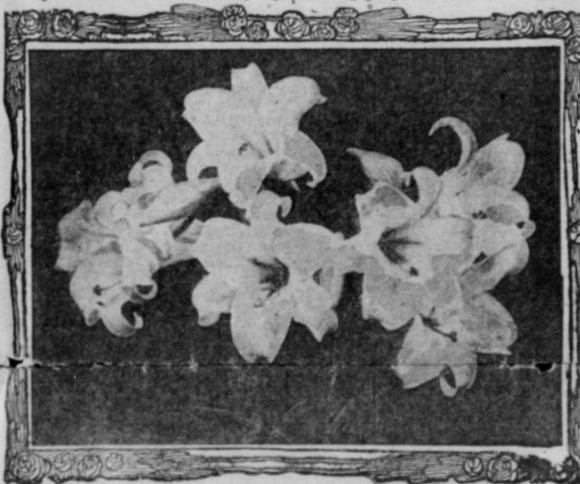
It looks as if Europe had another "sick man" on its hands, the mighty Empire of Russia, although it may not be incurable as is the case with Turkey, or chronic as is the case with Spain. Nations, like men, go down in the march of time. Russia is too young, perhaps, to go to pieces like Turkey, which in the days of the English Tudors was the first military power of earth, and too virile to go as Spain did, which at the time of Charles V. was the world's foremost military power.

A NEW EASTER LILY.

Crossing the Bermuda Flower with a Philippine Species is Successful.

If the expectations of the Department of Agriculture are realized with experiments now going on, the price of Easter Lilies will be much lower next year. This will enable persons who have been obliged to deny themselves the luxury of an Easter Lily, to purchase this beautiful flower without laying themselves open to the charge of being extravagant. The high price of this spring flower is caused through the long growing season of the bulb before it bursts into bloom. From the time the bulb of the Bermuda Lily is planted until it is in full bloom is a period of five to seven months. Florists usually plant the bulbs in September in order that they may be ready for the coming Easter. They have always been studying the flower with a hope of shortening the time of growing, for, in greenhouses, time and space are at a premium, and any shortening there- of represents a decided gain.

The Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture early last year took up this problem and imported from the Philippines a lily resembling the common Easter lily in size and color, though it bears usually only one, but at times two flowers to the plant. Its chief virtue, however, lies in the fact that its growing season is but two to three months. This lily the department has crossed with the common Easter lily, and the result has been a hybrid, bearing as many flowers as the old Bermuda lily, with no difference in appearance from this plant, except that the hybrid will develop in four or five months, rep-



AS THE NEW QUICK FLOWERING HYBRID LILY APPEARS.

resenting a shortening in time of from one to three months. While the experiments of the Department are not yet completed, the results attained so far warrant the belief that the new hybrid Easter Lily can be produced vastly cheaper than the old variety.

Starting in Early.

One year the gardener told me that the rose bugs threatened to work destruction among his choice roses. So I hit upon the idea of hiring my two youngsters to pick them off and destroy them ten cents a hundred bugs. This worked beautifully for a short time, until suddenly there came a devastating horde of the pests. Dick grasped the situation at once and sal- vaging forth invited his friends to assist, at five cents per hundred, sub- scribing, as it were, while he did the bossing and pocketed the profits.

PUBLIC TIMBER GRABBING.

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ANXIOUS THAT CONGRESS SAVE AMERICAN FORESTS.

Second Instalment of Commissions Report—Protests Against 640 Acre Homestead Scheme—Repeal of Lieu Land Law.

Two pieces of public land legisla- tion which engaged the attention of Congress last winter were the 640- acre, or square-mile homestead bill, and the lieu land timber bill. The former was defeated the latter was passed, both properly. Under the 640-acre bill it was sought to in- crease the 160-acre homestead entry, covering some twenty million or more acres of land in South Dakota and Colorado, to 640 acres, the claims be- ing that the land was not sufficiently productive to support a family on 160 acres, and that 640 acres would be a proper unit. A similar bill was also introduced to include the lands of the entire state of Montana.

These measures were vigorously opposed on the ground that 640 acres were either too much for a farm or else too large enough for stock graz- ing exclusively, and also on the ground that the agricultural capabili- ties of this, or in fact any part of the west are not thoroughly under- stood and that land which may to-day be considered of little use for agricul- ture, will, under improved methods of culture and the introduction of drought-resisting plants, be found to- morrow to be entirely suitable for farming purposes. As a matter of

hundreds of thousands of acres of land embraced within the forest re- serves naturally almost bare of forest cover or which had been stripped of their timber and left worth perhaps a dollar an acre, were thus purchased by corporations and exchanged on an even basis for the finest government timber lands of the northwest. Several bills were introduced to amend this law, but finally, after much con- troversy, the entire act was repealed, greatly to the dismay of the timber grabbers, and this mode of robbing the government stopped.

A bill was also introduced repealing the timber and stone act and provid- ing for the disposal of timber in the manner recommended by the Public Lands Commission, but this bill stum- bled and finally died in the Public Lands Committee of the House of



GIFFORD PINCHOT U. S. Forester and Member of the Public Lands Commission.

Representatives, the opinion of the majority of the members of that com- mittee being, apparently, that the timber grabbing should be allowed to continue. The strictures of the Presi- dent's Public Lands Commission, quoted below, on the coil of the law are a sufficient condemnation of its malfeasant provisions.

The second instalment of the Com- mission's report follows: The agricultural possibilities of the remaining public lands are as yet almost un- known. Lands which a generation or even a decade ago were supposed to be valueless are now producing large crops, either with or without irrigation. This has been brought about in part by the introduction of new grains and other plants and new methods of farming and in part by denser population and improved systems of trans- portation. It is obvious that the first es- sential step in putting the remaining public lands to their best use is to ascertain what that best use is by a preliminary study and classification of them, and to determine their probable future and development by agriculture.

Until it can be definitely ascertained that any given area of the public lands is and in all probability forever will remain un- suited to agricultural development, the title to that land should remain in the Gen- eral Government in trust for the future settler.

For example: The passage of the reclama- tion act (June 17, 1902) made certain the disposition to actual settlers of large areas of land which up to that time had been considered as valueless. Other areas, which are too high and barren to have notable value even for grazing, are now known to have importance in the future development of the country through their capacity to produce forest growth. The making of wells will give an added value to vast tracts of range lands for which the water supply is now scanty. In short, because of possible development, through irrigation, through the introduction of new plants and new methods of farming, through forest preservation, and through control, the remaining public lands have an importance hitherto but dimly foreseen.

In view of these facts it is of the first importance to save the remaining public domain for actual home builders to the utmost limit of future possibilities, and not to mortgage the future by any disposition of the public lands under which home making will not keep step with disposal. To that end your Commission recommends (see p. 12) method of range control under which present resources may be used to the full without endangering future settle- ment.

After the agricultural possibilities of the public lands have been ascertained with reasonable certainty, provision should be made for dividing the same into areas sufficiently large to support a family, and no larger, and to permit settlement on such areas. It is obvious that any attempt to accomplish this end without a careful classification of the public lands would necessarily fail. Attempts of this kind are being made from time to time, and legisla- tion of this character is now pending, modeled on the Nebraska 640-acre homestead law which was passed as an experiment to meet a certain restricted local condition. This act (53 Stat., 847) permits the entry of 640-acre homesteads in the sand-hill region of that State. Whether in practice the operation of this law will result in putting any considerable number of settlers on the land is not yet determined. Your commission is of opinion, after careful consideration, that general provisions of this kind should not be extended until after thorough study of the public lands.

(Continued on next page.)

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That night I had a bill of \$3 from poor tired Arthur, and nearly \$14 from my enterprising and business- like younger hopeful. So I reduced wages to ten cents per thousand, whereupon they promptly struck. The next day I found them hard at work picking rosebuds for a confiding neighbor, at the original price, while my bushes were left to their fate.

tioners or private corporations owning lands within such boundaries might select in lieu thereof any public land not reserved, and this right was trans- ferable. The result was that parties sold their lieu land rights and these were purchased by giant timber syn- dicates and lumber corporations for speculative purposes. The title to