THE PLAINS GREATEST

BY BUFFALO BILL FROM TRUE TALES OF THE PLAINS'



al episode resulting from the friendship exhibited by Russia all for miles around. to the government of the United States during the civil war-the courtesies shown to the young Grand Duke Alexis. Among the events arranged In the programme was his visit to the far west to hunt for big game. The whole affair was under the direction of General Phil Sheridan, and Custer, from his youth, distinction and suitability, was particularly selected to chaperon and have charge of the grand duke and at the same time show him the horsemanship and admirable qual-Itles of the American army officer. I had been ordered by General Sheridan to take charge of the matter and have everything in readiness for the grand duke and a large number of noblemen and officers of his staff. I had located a camp sixty miles from North Platte, on the Red Willow, in the heart of the buffalo country. Lieutenant E. M.

Hayes, now brigadier general, retired, a dashing soldier, more familiarly known as General Jack Hayes, was assigned the duty of arranging the material and equipping the camp. There was no limit to the efforts to provide every luxury and comfort that lavish expense could procure. Provisions, wines, etc., of the finest had been freighted in from Chicago; tents for the royal guests were beautifully furnished with carpets, rugs, robes and with a stove in each tent. It certainly was a most beautiful camp, named Camp Alexis, and Lieutenant Hayes must have been inspired by some of the oriental tales of kingly camps in days of old and tried to "go it one better." Runners had been sent out and conferences had been held arranging for an assured peace meeting with Spotted Tail and other powerful chiefs to attend and give zest to the sport. I quote from the dispatches of the day to the press (from the New York Herald) relative to the same;

"Some forty odd superior wall tents were properly equipped for the guests alone. The arrangements of the camp, in brief, were complete, not to say luxurious, when the remote and wild section of the country is considered. Betwo mounted companies to guard safe- speed over the rugged prairie." the imperial tourists and sportsmen from the wrath and revepge of the numerous 'dog soldiers,' Indians under Chief Whistler. The chances are, however, that the reds will unite in rendering the duke's visit one of pleasure rather than one of fear or harm. Sheridan and 'Buffalo Bill' have persuaded them to such a course, and, furthermore, to procure their good behavior the general has brought out thirty wagon loads of provisions, which he has promised to distribute impartially among the red men at the end of the hunt if they restrain themselves from any violence. These presents assure such result. This perhaps may be con-



"Bill, this is the grand duke."

sidered a questionable way to secure a foreign guest from scalping or murder in the United States, but when it is known that the Indians are armed and outnumber the soldiers ten to one it will be admitted that Sheridan's 'tickle me and I will tickle you' policy is the only safe one to pursue. From 1,500 to 2,000 Indians are expected."

The arrival in North Platte is thus described in dispatches of Jan. 3, 1872: "The duke alighted from the train; the natives of the little station formed in line along the platform and, almost involuntarily, simultaneously removed their hats in honor of the distinguished wisitor. 'Little Phil' was master of ceremonies, and he was bound that not a moment should be lost in starting for the camp, sixty miles distant. He arranged with 'Buffalo Bill' to be on hand and act as guide, and the rewned scout was promptly on time and in all his element. He was seated memory as a scene in every respect

PEAKING of General Custer on a spanking charger and, with his appeared as the feared and beloved by

> "White men and barbarous Indians are alike moved by his presence, none of them daring to do aught in word or deed contrary to his rules of law sight. and civilization. After the ducal party had alighted, General Sheridan beckoned the famous scout to approach. He advanced carelessly, yet respectfully. 'Your highness,' said the general, 'this is Mr. Cody, otherwise and universally known as "Buffalo Bill." Bill, this is the grand duke.'

"'I am glad to see you,' said the hero of the plains. 'You have come out here, so the general tells me, to shoot some buffaloes

"'Yes,' answered Alexis, 'and I hope to have a good, fine time. I heard of you before, and I am glad to meet you

"'Thank you, thank you,' said Bill, with a smile as honest as that of a maiden. 'If the weather holds good, we'll have one of the finest hunts that there ever was on the continent.'

"'Buffalo Bill" is the famous western scout employed by Sheridan for Indian service and one who is efficient and reliable. Bill is about thirty years of age, is about six feet in height, and with other proportions he has a pleasing face and fine address and would have been prominent in other walks of life had not circumstances made him famous as a western hunter.

"The tales that are told of Buffalo Bill's' hunting experiences since he was old enough to ride a horse-for Bill was born and brought up on the plains-are truly wonderful to hear, related as they are around our blazing campfires and in the presence of all of the paraphernalia of frontier life upon the plains. Bill was dressed in a buckskin suit of trimmed fur and wore a black slouch hat, his long hair hanging in ringlets down his shoulders.

"As he dashed from the railroad station he was closely followed by the grand duke in an open Concord wagon drawn by four powerful horses, which carried the distinguished representatives of two powerful nations, escorted sides the cavalry escort, there were by the cavalry, at a fearful rate of

Of course there was a glorious tin in camp-in fact, "high jinks," as far as the natural military discipline, the dignified and courteous qualities and manners governing both guests and hosts permitted. After a day of rest following the sixty mile ride and a night of social exchanges my scouts and Indian allies reported the presence of a herd of buffaloes. We gave a first run, in which General Custer, myself and many officers gave an exhibition to our guests of the manner and method of hunting buffaloes, showing and explaining the necessity of trained horses used to the job and the method of shooting. either through the loins or under the heart. The grand duke eventually mounted probably the best buffalo hunting horse that ever lived, "Buckskin Joe," and soon adapted himself to the sport. General Custer especially gave a magnificent exhibition of skill. dash and expertness. He and myself accompanied the grand duke, and the latter acquitted himself splendidly. We cut out eventually two or three of the finest horned buffaloes, colossal in size, which he brought down. The magnificent heads I secured, sent them by express to Chicago to the taxidermist and they now ornament the royal castles in St. Petersburg. During the hunt elk, antelope, deer and coyote heads were treated in the same way and sent home as trophles. Photographs were taken of the camp and some of the scenes, and it is to be regretted that photography had not been sufficiently perfected then to get what would be a sensational connection of the men, the horses, the buffaloes and the guns in action. But the grand battue, or roundup, was reserved for the last, which was an Indian hunt for buffaloes. Camp scenes and Indian war dances, powwows and feasts, proved of interest to the royal guests, who expressed delight at all they saw. General Custer gave some practical military drills and evolutions as accompanying exhibits, and in the social education they received practical instructions as well in the game of

But of the Indian roundup of buffaloes I might say that such a picturesque assemblage, such natural conditions, when nature furnished in its primitiveness the striking adjunct of an 11limitable hunting ground and innumerable varieties of big game, magnificent savage allies, in all the rainbow brilliancy of their native garb and fantastic adornment, mingled with the flower of the veteran cavalry of Uncle Sam commanded by General Phil Sheridan. General E. O. C. Ord, commander of the department of the Platte, with the gallant Custer, Colonel Mike Sheridan. the Forsyths, Assistant Surgeon M. V. Ash, Major Sweitzer, Colonel Palmer and Lieutenant Hayes, a brilliant array of famed officers, and the gorgeously accoutered foreign officials, admirals and generals, and a detachment of the flower of our army, made a pageant so spirited as to linger in

unique beyond compare up to date and one well nigh impossible in the future to duplicate. I had located an immense herd of buffaloes, and all arrangements were complete, "the blanket was wayed three times," and off the outfit started at daylight. The Indians were painted in a variety of colors, had dis- By the Well Known Heart and Dropsy carded all their artistic adornments, different colored ornaments, jewelry, feathers and other apparel and looked the water of one's own blood. like real children of nature, almost in every dropsical person may test the Adam's costume; only a breechclout around their loins, moccasins on their feet, no saddle no bridle the ponies feet, no saddle, no bridle, the ponies with only a thin leather hackamore between their teeth; some with only light bow and arrows, others with their trial course free. rifle, revolver, ammunition, no unnecreminds me of an internation- long hair and spangled buckskin suit, essary weight, so that they could ride like lightning. They even spared their horses and walked most of the time, but with such speed that it kept every liver, kindneys and dropsy which often come "hopping" to go the pace. This complicate each case. So wonderful

> A council was held, and the calumet was passed around, and everything



With the roar of Niagara the Indians dashed on their prey.

cited than his rider. About 200 were in the front line, 150 in the second line and 100 composed the rear. The chiefs were in the front, snapping their whips in the air and holding the riders toer with the ponies foaming, prancing and stamping their feet, impatient as their masters, each seeming to form What About the Other Eye? one soul and one body, centaurs, all A small boy was playing with the feeling, one desire, to gain as many er chided him. laurels as possible when the chief suddenly gave the signal to go. Thunder dear. I know a little boy like you who and lightning! What a tornado! What was playing with a pair of scissors just a storm of horsemen as, with impet- like that pair, and he put them in his uosity, these nomads dashed on their eye and put his eye out, and he could prey. With the roar of Niagara, the never see anything after that." speed of a cyclone, the swiftness of an avalanche, these strange figures when she got through the narrative; threw themselves in a mad, wild rush on their fleeing victims, and soon in eye?" the midst of the dust cloud one could only see an indescribable mixup of flying arrows, accompanied with rifle shots, galloping horses, falling buffaloes and fleet riding Indians on their wild ponies. It was a confusion in one sense and regulated action in another, forming almost a delirium of delight to the huntsmen. Some went flying from one end of the prairie to the other after stragglers, while the main guard formed in such a manner as to make the buffaloes circle. The signal to halt was given, and as the dust cloud rose little by little like a curtain in the theater the horses were seen at a standstill, and the prairie was strewn with the buffaloes that fell. Calm and practical fellows were these Indians. Even the horses began quietly pasturing on the grasses, while the hunters proceeded to pull off the hides and cut out the tongues and favorite pieces of their native cattle and preparing the meat in strips for preservation.

During the progress of the hunt the grand duke expressed a desire to have a test made as to the use of the bow and arrow of the Indians. "Two Lance," with a reputation as a buffalo hunting chief, was selected for the purpose. While riding at full speed he shot an arrow from his bow which plerced a buffalo clean through from side to side. The grand duke con sidered the feat so remarkable that he took the arrow home with him as memento of the occasion.

The commissary wagons assisted in bringing fresh meat to camp, and great festivities marked the closing of this grand hunt. Guests and hosts had tasted of one of the most glorious feasts that ever true Nimrods attended. Sheridan was delighted, everybody was congratulated, and the picture still lingers in my mind with young General Custer predominating the grand assemblage. He was the life and spirit, one might say, of the occasion. and to me it is sad to think of another picture that depends almost alone on imagination and of which "more anon" -that of Custer's last battle.

NEXT WEEK:-"CUSTERS LAST

The fault which humbles us is of more use than a good action which puffs us up with pride.—Bovee.

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the different kinds and complications of dropsy are the result of twenty-eight years, of profound research and great success in treating diseases of the heart, one "hopping" to go the pace. This complicate each case. So wonderful lick kept up until the herd was in are the cures by these treatments that the Doctor will give a free trial to all who write for it.

Mrs. Elvina Sonders, Decatur, Febr., age 71, suffered thirty years, cured after ten physicians failed. Mr. John Betz, ed his horse, which seemed more exten physicians failed. Mr. John Betz,
Ft. Recovery, Ohio "Friends had given
up hope." Relieved at once and cured.

Mrs. L. Voyal Sagisan Me and cured.

Mrs. L. Voyal Sagisan Me and cured. up hope." Relieved at once and cured. Mrs. L. Vogel, Saginaw, Mich., "Given up by physicians. Thought my last hour was near." Quickly cured. Mrs. W. Bertwell, Willis Kans., suffered 25 years. Cured, in four months, Mr. Ran-kin is of Scotch Irish decent and he began his life as a farm hand in Illinois. C. A. Killinger. Shippensburg, Pa. Cured after four physicians failed to relieve. Says, "Your Special Treatment did wonders." Mrs. M. S. Nibarger, Anderson, Cal., suffered for years. Cured after local physicians failed. Hundreds of patients have been cured who were pronounced incurable by many physicians. Many remarkable cures from your state sent upon re- tion on her throat, but in some manner

Dr. Miles' Grand Dropsy Treatments appendicitis patients. The surgeons are much superior to any others and say they found she had a light attack of to obtain the best results they are specafflicted person should send for his Dropsy Book and \$3.75 treatment free.

Describe your disease. Dropsy Book and \$3.75 treatment free. would have been necessary later any-Describe your disease. Address, Dr. way. The child came through the un-Franklin Miles, Dept. D. 475 to 485 expected ordeal well and will recover. Main Street, Elkhart, Ind.

Indians with the magnitude of his dig-nity. He dressed himself in full uni-ed by May 15. form, with his sword by his side, and, rising in the council, told them that one reason why the great father had had so much trouble with his red children was that he had sent civilians to them.

"You are warriors," he said, "and when the great father saw me he said. I will send this man, who is a great warrior, to my red children, who are warriors, and they will hear his words."

An old chief arose and, surveying the speaker from head to foot, said calmly: it at a place where you and I could not "Since I was a small boy I have heard | tell it. "Since I was a small boy I have heard that white men have great warriors. I have always wanted to see one. I have Why? Because we sell Sels Shoes." looked upon one, and now I am ready to die."

waiting for the signal, all with one scissors, and his kindly old grandmoth-

"You mustn't play with the scissors,

The child listened patiently and said "What was the matter with his other

Be Yourself Always.

Whatever you are by nature, keep to it. Never desert your own line of talent. Be what nature intended you for and you will succeed. Be anything else and you will be ten thousand times worse than nothing .- Sydney Smith.

Material Ones.

"Are you superstitious?" "Not a bit." "Don't believe in ghosts?"

"Only when they walk."

Sure Cure. "Is there something I can put in his coffee that will make him quit smok-

"Sure thing; strychnine."

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Send this advertisement, together with nar of paper in which it appears, your address a four cents to cover postage, and we will se you a "Complete Handy Atlas of the World SCOTT & BOWNE, 409 Pearl St., New York The Editor Told the Truth.

The editor of a country weekly in a nearby state, growing tired of lying about people in obituary notices, also of being hypocritical for it, wrote of a well known deceased citizen as follows:

"Deceased was a mild-mannered pirate. He came here at night with another man's wife and joined the church at the first chance. You could hear his prayer six Blocks. He died singing Jesus Paid it All," and we think he is right, for he never paid anythig himself. He was burried in an asbestos casket and his friends threw palm-leaf fans into his grave. His tombstone will be a favorite resting place for hoot

Over half of the obituaries, it might be added, that are printed, extol the deceased to the skies, for virtues, liberality, christian conduct, faithful and true to church, et cetera, which are simply varnishings of shortcomings.

A Successful Man.

The most successful farmer in Missouri, is David Rankin. He is the greatest farmer on earth. He owns in the neighorhood of Tarklo 25,640 acres. Some men own more land, which they use as a cattle range, but Mr. Rankin is gan his life as a farm hand in Illinois. Then he removed to Missouri, where has been enormously successful.

Doctor's Wrong Diagnosis.

Sent to the Harrisburg Hospital with enlarged tonsils, Rosie Cohen, aged 8 years, was operated on by mistake for appendicitis. She had been given an anesthetic preparatory to a simple operawas sent to the operating room with six appendicitis, which accounts for their

New Ice Plant.

The Clinton Coal and Ice Company has let a contract for the erection of a An old time Indian agent who was a \$30,000 artificial ice plant in Lock Havmilitia colonel desired to impress the en. The plant will have twenty tons

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Least expenses. Lowest prices.

Alcohol not needed

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is not a strong drink. As now made, there is not a drop of alcohol in it. It is a non-alcoholic tonic and alterative. Ask your own doctor about your taking this medicine for thin, impure blood. Follow his advice every time. He knows.

Ask your doctor, "What is the first great rule of health?" Nine doctors out of ten will quickly reply, "Keep the bowels regular." Then ask him another ques-"What do you think of Ayer's Pills for constipation?" -Made by the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass,-

Out of 31 counties that have now voted in the State of Indiana under law, only one has declared in favor of liquor. At that rate there will be a dry time out the Hoosier State but things are

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