

THE SECRET OF THE TREATY DIPLOMATIC MYSTERY. BY BOY TELLET

"How could he possibly have got the information?" "How, indeed? We have taken every possible precaution. We hold our sittings, as you know, at the foreign office, in an immense saloon upstairs. The walls and ceilings are prodigiously thick. We sit at a table in the middle of the room, and never raise our voices; there is no occasion for us to do so. Besides, you suggest the chimney—something was once done in that way, or supposed to be done, for I never quite believed the story. But with us



Count Schrievalljeff.

It is impossible, for we keep up a roaring fire. Neither is it through the blotting paper that our secret has been betrayed, for we do not use any powder or writing in the good old-fashioned style. In fact, it is absolutely impossible for any outsider to get sight or hearing of our proceedings. And what makes the incident all the more painful is that, in the discussion of this particular clause, we decided for the sake of greater security to dispense with the attendance of a secretary.

Of course I saw the significance of this. It seemed to point to treachery on the part of one of the diplomats. I hinted as much to the prince, but he was staunch in defense of his order. "No doubt," he said, "it looks like it. No other explanation seems possible, and yet that explanation is impossible. Diplomats, as you see I know, are not considered a specially scrupulous class of people. But there is honor amongst thieves, and diplomacy itself would become impossible if there were not a certain background of confidence among diplomats. Here, as in so many other cases, a rigid, professional etiquette serves as a succedaneum for conscience. When we act individually no doubt we are liable to do all sorts of queer things. But when we agree to act collectively, and mutually pledge our honor to keep our proceedings secret, we know we can trust each other."

"I was aware from my own experience that there was a great deal of truth in what the prince said; still my curiosity prompted me to ask him, who had acted as secretary when the real secretary was absent. "Oh, there need be no secret about that," said the prince; "it is Schrievalljeff. How pleased he will be if Le Grand upsets the treaty! My chief difficulty has been with him."

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"Cannot obtain much information. No good waiting in the hope tonight. I have a trained memory, and when I read this telegram I took care to fix it indelibly in my mind. Then I returned it to Le Grand, and he handed it to the clerk, who accepted it without demur. I had hoped that I might not get a little private conversation with the great man, but I was disappointed, for the moment we got outside, he made his adieux, and, halting a droopingly, was driven back to his hotel. There was nothing for me to do but to return to my room, but, meanwhile, I took out my note-book, and wrote down the telegram word for word. Two or three things had already struck me with respect to it. The first was that he had evidently wished me to see it. This he would not do without an object. The second was, why should he telegraph at all if he had no news to convey? The third was that, transparent as the telegram seemed, there was something a little suspicious in its length. Why not have simply telegraphed: 'No news?'

As a matter of fact, there was some deception about this telegram, and I therefore proceeded to treat it as a cryptogram. Now the plan of such every-day cryptograms is not, as a rule, very mysterious. Unless, as was the case with me, there is some ground of suspicion to start with, a very simple cryptogram will effectually conceal the meaning of the writer. But, knowing what I did, I had something to work upon; and thus helped, I soon deciphered Le Grand's real meaning. As the telegram seemed, there was still something a little suspicious in its length. Why not have simply telegraphed: 'No news?'



"There Was No Concealing Those Huge Proportions."



BANKRUPTCY

—of the physical being is the result of drawing incessantly upon the reserve capital of nerve force. The wear, tear and strain of modern life are concentrated upon the nervous system. The young men of our day become sufferers from nervous debility or weakness. They feel irritable, weak and nervous with worry and excitement, or the result of bad practices and excesses, or pericious habits, contracted in youth, through ignorance. They feel nervous, weak and nervous with worry and excitement, or the result of bad practices and excesses, or pericious habits, contracted in youth, through ignorance. They feel nervous, weak and nervous with worry and excitement, or the result of bad practices and excesses, or pericious habits, contracted in youth, through ignorance.

THE WORLD OF BUSINESS

New York, Sept. 30.—The stock market today was characterized by a general decline. The opening was at 101 1/2 for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, down from 102 1/2 yesterday. The market was generally quiet, with only a few scattered transactions. The closing was at 101 1/2, a net loss of 1 point. The volume of business was moderate, and the market showed no signs of recovery.

NEWS OF OUR INDUSTRIES

Happenings of Interest to the Staple Trades and Particularly to the Trade in Iron, Steel and Anthracite Coal. Japan exports 1,200,000 tons of coal per annum. Edward Atkinson thinks about 6,000 miles of railway yearly will be built in this country for some years. During the third week in September 1895, the gross earnings of the 12 principal railroads increased 2.18 per cent. In gross earnings, during the second week of the month, the railroads increased 3.67 per cent. in gross earnings. The Reading received last week the first consignment of the 1,000 hopper cars now being built by the Baldwin Locomotive Company. It is expected that the new equipment will be delivered at the rate of seventy cars a week.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Open-High, Low, Close. Lists various commodities like Am. Tobacco, Am. Cotton, Am. Sugar, etc.

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE. WHEAT. December 67 1/2, 67 3/4, 67 1/2, 67 3/4. May 67 1/2, 67 3/4, 67 1/2, 67 3/4. OATS. October 19 1/2, 19 3/4, 19 1/2, 19 3/4. CORN. October 21 1/2, 21 3/4, 21 1/2, 21 3/4. December 21 1/2, 21 3/4, 21 1/2, 21 3/4. LARD. October 5 1/2, 5 3/4, 5 1/2, 5 3/4. COFFEE. January 8 1/2, 8 3/4, 8 1/2, 8 3/4. SUGAR. January 9 1/2, 9 3/4, 9 1/2, 9 3/4.

RAILROAD NOTES

The Madison Car company, of Madison, Ill., is at work on 200 box and 300 coal cars for the Union Pacific, Denver and Gulf Railroad company. The H. C. Frick Coke company has placed an order with the Michigan-Pennsylvania Car company, of Detroit, Mich., for 400 open-top coke cars of standard size. The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad company recently completed at its shops at Reading, Pa., a sample of a new type of freight car, and it is stated that the receivers have given an order for the construction of fifty additional cars of this pattern. The Wells and French company, of Chicago, Ill., is building fifty-one ballast cars for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad company. Within the last few days representatives of New York capitalists have been in Cleveland consulting with Crosby Thompson, an electric railway promoter, as to the road between Cleveland and Pittsburgh. They assured him that they could produce from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 ready capital. His verdict was that it would require \$1,000,000 to construct an electric railroad well equipped to compete with the steam railroads. The New Yorkers return home to consult their principals. Mr. Thompson refused to divulge the names of the capitalists. Gone to His Reward. He rooked the bank in fact's greed. And tried to make the others scream; His friends are grasping now to see If they can fish him from the stream.

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