

Among the officers on the Grand Staff is a tall, handsome man, with a lithe, slender, active figure, a clear blue eye, a large, prominent, well-shaped nose, and a face young enough for a Second Lieutenant. It is Skobelev, the youngest general in the Russian army, and conqueror of Khokand. He has the reputation, even among the Russians, of being a madman who would fling away his own life and those of his troops without the slightest regard for consequences. During the war which resulted in the conquest of Khokand, a Russian detachment of 800 men with 400 Cossacks, was compelled to retreat before a superior force of the enemy. Gen. Trotsky decided upon a midnight attack, and confided his plan to Col. Skobelev, then his chief of staff. The latter entered into the idea with great enthusiasm, and proposed to lead the attacking column himself, and to take only 150 Cossacks. Skobelev, having reconnoitered the ground, perceived that the Khokandians had encamped within a mile and a half of the Russians in an open plain, which gave every facility for the maneuvering of cavalry. At midnight he took his 150 Cossacks, divided them into three parties, and cautiously surrounded the enemy's camp. The party led by Skobelev himself, managed to pass the enemy's outposts, who were sound asleep. Then he gave the signal for attack by firing his pistol, and followed by his 150 Cossacks, he rode headlong into the enemy's camp of 6,000 or 7,000 men, shouting and yelling like fiends, and cutting down everything in their passage. For a quarter of an hour the plain resounded with shrieks and yells, shouts and groans, and all the uproar of battle. Then all was silence. Skobelev assembled his Cossacks, and when morning came he found that the whole army of the enemy, 6,000 or 7,000 men had disappeared, leaving in the field about 40 dead, 2,000 or 3,000 muskets and sabres, all their camp material and baggage. But what was his astonishment on calling the roll to discover that he had not lost a man either killed or wounded. Mr. McGahan, who first met him on the bank of the Oxus, relates this exploit to show how much method there is in the darddevil's madness.—*N. Y. Star.*

Remembered Kindness.

The Raleigh (N. C.) News tells the following story: In one of the hotly-contested fights in Virginia, during the war, a Federal officer fell wounded in front of the Confederate breastworks. While lying there wounded and crying piteously for water, a Confederate soldier (James Moore, of Burke county, N. C.) declared his intention of supplying him with drink. The bullets were flying thick from both sides, and Moore's friends endeavored to dissuade him from such a hazardous enterprise. Despite remonstrance and danger, however, Moore leaped the breastwork, canteen in hand, reached his wounded enemy, and gave him drink. The Federal, under a sense of gratitude for the timely service, took out his gold watch and offered it to his benefactor, but it was refused. The officer then asked the name of the man who had braved such danger to succor him. The name was given, and Moore returned unhurt to his position behind the embankment. They saw nothing more of each other. Moore was subsequently wounded and lost a limb in one of the engagements in Virginia, and returned to his home in Burke county. A few days ago he received a communication from the Federal soldier to whom he had given the "cup of cold water" on the occasion alluded to, announcing that he had settled on him the sum of \$10,000 to be paid in four equal annual installments.

The crocodile is a headstrong beast, with a long tail and a big appetite. He lives on the banks of the Nile, except when he is a native of this country, and goes under the name of alligator, and votes the straight Democratic ticket. It was of old the habit of the crocodile to eat a little nigger boy for breakfast every morning; but since the passage of the Civil Rights bill, he cannot make any distinction on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. So he will chew up a white baby—Helen's or any body else's—as quick as if he were mahogany timber; which shows the broad and liberal ideas of the crocodile. When the crocodile goes to sleep, he leaves his mouth open; and people take advantage of this piece of confiding simplicity, and put a stick between his jaws. When the crocodile wakes up he says: "Well, I'll be halifaxed!" Then he sheds some of the peculiar tears for which he is famous, and dies. We do not know whether he goes to heaven, or whether he is halifaxed.—*Puck.*

"My son," said a mother to a little boy four years old, "whom above others will you wish to see when you pass into the spirit-world?" "Goliath!" shouted the child, with a joyous anticipation; "unless," he quickly added, "there's a bigger fellow there."

It is now generally believed that the feeling between Judge Hilton and Bigman was caused by the fact that Bigman wore a diamond as big as a egg, and was constantly mistaken for the Boston Transcript.

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The following is an extract from a description of Vineland, published in the New York Tribune, by the well-known Agriculturist, Solomon Robinson:

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