

Louis XIV. and the Gypsies.

A Strange Story of the Reason for His Sweeping Edict Against Them.

Gypsies, or Bohemians, as they were called in early days, made their first appearance in France in 1427. During the reign of Louis XIV. the criminal acts of these itinerants assumed such intolerable proportions that the King issued an edict commanding that all male members of their hands be arrested and sent to the galleys and the women and children consigned to the poorhouses. The execution of the order was committed to the famous La Reynie, the first lieutenant-general of police.

It was the custom in France at that period, when men and women of noble birth were involved in criminal acts outside of affairs of state, to indicate them in police reports only by the first initial of their surnames. Those interested in learning the identity of the Count de B—, one of the principal actors of the incident about to be related, may discover it by referring to "La Correspondance de Mme. la Duchesse d'Orleans (Charlotte de Bavaria)." His name frequently occurs in her letters in connection with that of her husband.

This Count de B— was a high favorite at court, but was violent, unscrupulous and quarrelsome, and of a reputation so bad that he was suspected of having had a hand in the poisoning of a dearly loved Princess, Henrietta of England, sister of Charles II. and first wife of the Duke of Orleans.

A rich relative, M. de Saintaine, who lived in a country house buried in the woods of Berry, had provided to make the Count his heir should he die unmarried. As the income from his estate was 100,000 francs and his personal property amounted to 1,200,000 francs, the cupid of the Count was aroused and he proceeded to put machinery in motion for the early assimilation of his relative's assets.

M. de Saintaine was a bachelor at his fiftieth year and the chances of his marrying seemed small. He was pious to excess, was greatly esteemed in his neighborhood. He maintained his establishment lavishly; had dogs and horses and hunted closely his vast estate, but he persisted in managing his own financial affairs, and accordingly attended neighboring fairs, where he disposed in person of the products of his various farms. One of these fairs was held annually at Chatre, a nearby town. There M. de Saintaine appeared as usual in charge of a large herd of cattle and a great store of wheat, from the sale of which he realized 20,000 francs. This money he put in a portmanteau strapped to his saddle bags and late in the day started for his home, a journey of five leagues, which could only be accomplished before night by rapid travel.

When he had gone to the fair at Chatre he was followed by a priest of his neighborhood, a man reputed to be associated with a band of robbers, and by two companion rogues. On his way home M. de Saintaine was joined by the priest, who urged him to stop and pass the night at his parsonage, but the other politely refused and only urged his horses to a more rapid trot. When, however, two of the horses fell dead and both thighs of a servant riding one of them were broken, nothing remained for him but to accept the hospitality of the priest.

The parsonage was a very ancient building, part of a seigniorial castle, constructed at the time of the Crusades. One wing only had been rebuilt, but it communicated with the remains of the original structure by subterranean passages. The chapel of the castle had become the parish church and was connected with some of the rooms of the parsonage. An abutting cemetery occupied the space of the former garden of the castle. What was formerly a ditch protecting its approach had been filled with water. A wooden bridge crossing this led to the entrance to the parsonage. On the other side was a great forest which in former times constituted the baronial park. Opposite the church and cemetery was the priest's garden.

The house was in charge of a niece of the priest, a girl of modest demeanor and very beautiful, Juliette by name. At the sight of a stranger she became confused, her face changed from white to red, and her eyes filled with tears at the brutal command of her uncle to entertain his guest.

A servant entered and made a signal to the priest, which De Saintaine saw reflected in a mirror. The priest arose and excused himself, saying that he was called to the bedside of a sick man. "But, uncle, who is ill?" asked the niece. "Big Peter." "I have just seen him pass by." "You are mistaken," replied the uncle sharply. "John has just told me, and he is better informed than you." The tone of the priest's voice was so harsh and it was so clear he was lying that De Saintaine regretted he had accepted the hospitality of such a man.

The moon was rising. De Saintaine walked to a window to look at the landscape. To his astonishment he saw the priest walking to and fro in front of the house engaged in animated talk with two other men. Suddenly one of them took from his pocket three knives, giving one to the priest, the other to his companion, and putting the third in the breast of his coat.

After the departure of the uncle, Juliette had not removed her eyes from the embroidery on which she was working, although she appeared annoyed at the surveillance she was sub-

jected to by the servant. When the maid at last fell into a doze De Saintaine took advantage of this to converse with the niece. At his approach she lifted her head and indicated rapidly that he was in peril, and that she was determined to save him, but to accomplish it he must obey her implicitly.

When the priest returned he remarked casually that one Jacome, a bourgeois of Bourges, who was at the fair at la Chatre, would be, with the permission of De Saintaine, a guest at supper.

This second visitor proved to be Combons, the man who distributed the knives. His appearance in the house confirmed De Saintaine in the opinion that he had been caught in a trap. When De Saintaine was shown to his room in anticipation of the supper hour, Juliette managed to whisper to him to bolt the door and expect further news from her. About twenty minutes after he heard a slight noise above his head, a little trap opened in the ceiling, a white hand appeared and a paper was dropped therefrom, containing these words:

They are determined to kill and rob you. At supper they will offer you drugged wine. This will throw you into a deep sleep, when you will be killed. John, the groom, and I will save you and myself at the same time. Show no fear to your companions; they will not kill you until you are asleep. When you return to your room wait patiently for our arrival and above all do not be alarmed if we enter the room in an unusual way. Burn this note and pull back the bolt on the door.

The supper was uncommonly good and general gaiety prevailed. A sign from John and Juliette indicated to De Saintaine the drugged bottle. He made a pretence of drinking the wine. During a pause in the conversation De Saintaine pretended to be sleepy and asked permission of his host to retire at about 11 o'clock.

To assure himself against surprise, he tried to push the bolts of the door; but they were not in place, having evidently been removed while he was at supper. All he could do was to close the door and barricade it with a heavy bureau. This was barely done when a light noise attracted his attention in a part of the room near the bed. He walked there, taking the precaution to arm himself with his sword and pistols. They were useless, for while at supper the charge in each had been drawn. Near the bed in a panel in the wall, masked by a portrait, was pushed back. In the opening stood John and Juliette, each holding a dark lantern.

They signalled him to approach. As he joined them the sound of a key being turned in the lock of the barricaded door attracted his attention. An attempt to open it was prevented by the furniture placed against it.

There was no time to lose; the enemy was at hand. John took De Saintaine by the hand, with the valuable portmanteau in the grip of the other, and led him into the mysterious passages by which they had reached the panel, which consisted of a large sheet of iron. They hurried their flight through a number of subterranean lanes, from which they emerged into the open country at least a mile from the parsonage and on the opposite side of the canal. There two horses were tethered; John mounted the one and De Saintaine the other; with Juliette on a pillion behind him. As they rode on through the forest, the moon, lighting the side of a hill visible through a clearing, disclosed a body of men, members, no doubt of the band of brigands of which the priest was the chief. At daybreak they reached De Saintaine's house. Later in the morning they set out for Bourges, where Juliette was placed in temporary charge of the sisters of a religious retreat.

The priest, furious at the escape of his guest and the loss of his expected booty, hastened to anticipate an accusation against him by lodging a complaint against De Saintaine for the abduction of a minor and the ruin of her reputation so that marriage for her had become impossible.

camp, together with their little daughter.

The same evening young Louis de Saintaine disappeared from his home and all trace of him was lost. His inconsolable mother expended great sums of money and employed an army of agents in search of him, but with no success, though it was the general opinion that the Gypsies were concerned in the kidnapping. Those of the band remaining in the neighborhood of Bourges denied participation in the crime, and asserted that the man and woman whom they had expelled were the culprits. After a month the remainder left the neighborhood.

Four years later a priest of Bourges returning from Rome, reported that he had met with this same community of Gypsies encamped in the neighborhood of Senne, that he had learned that the couple driven from the tribe when at Bourges were in reality what were called the king and queen, and their apparent expulsion, was a ruse to divert suspicion from the other members of the band, and that the couple expelled were, in reality, the abductors of young De Saintaine.

At this juncture Mme. de Saintaine died. Ten days later the Count de B— demanded letters of administration upon the estate of the husband and wife, the Count agreeing to care for the property, while enjoying the income, until the fate of young De Saintaine should be definitely established. Other relatives opposed this application, but the influence of the Count de B— at court was so formidable that he was placed in possession of the great wealth.

The affair slumbered for several years, when one day in 1681 Mme. de Maington, who was caring in secret for the children of Mme. de Montesson, was surprised to see the Duke de Maine, the latter's eldest son, enter her room leading by the hand a handsome lad of about his own age, clothed in rags. Following them was a young Gypsy woman 18 or 20 years old, who explained that the Count de B— had bribed her father and mother to kidnap the lad. Both of her parents had died at Venice, but before dying they had made deposition before the Venetian authorities to that effect. Moreover, she had with her two letters written by the Count de B— to her father, arranging with him that their tribe should make way with young De Saintaine.

Nothing could give Mme. de Maington more pleasure than these revelations. It enabled her to annoy the Duchess of Orleans, a bitter enemy, and the special protectress of the Count de B—. She made this affair her own; she spoke to the king in relation to it and inquiries were immediately instituted to disentangle the plot. The identity of young De Saintaine was established without trouble, and the Count de B— was forced to relinquish the riches he had come to regard as his bygone possibility of alienation. All that saved him from the gallows was the powerful protection of the Duke of Orleans.

On account of the part this band of Gypsies had taken in the abduction of young De Saintaine, in July, 1682, Louis XIV. issued the severe edict which he made applicable to every one of the race as if all were concerned in the particular crime.—New York Sun.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Korean widows are not allowed to remarry.

There are only about ninety daily papers in Russia.

Alaska is more than five hundred and fifty times the area of Rhode Island.

The City of Glasgow makes \$7500 a year profit out of waste paper collected in the streets.

The cost of the English navy amounts to \$22 a year for every family in Great Britain.

Iowa is about to enact a law making it a misdemeanor for an able-bodied man who is able to work to refuse a job.

The children of Spanish residents in Mexico are less energetic than their parents, and the change becomes more noticeable with every generation.

Manchester, England, sacrifices from £12,000 to £15,000 every year by declining to have advertisements on its cars, which are operated by the city.

Of this year's graduating class at Yale, numbering 313, 132 will go into business, 85 into law, 24 into medicine, 25 into teaching, 9 into the ministry, and 26 will do special work.

Spruce gum is becoming scarce and harder to get in the Maine woods, and school girls who chew that sort will have to pay more for it hereafter. The gum now costs \$1.35 a pound.

Abyssinia produces the finest ostrich feathers, the price there being \$1.44 to \$2.31 per dozen for the best white, 96 cents to \$1.93 a dozen for black, and half as much for gray feathers.

An Arabian woman who is in mourning for a near relative abstains from drinking milk for eight days, on the theory that the color of the liquid does not harmonize with her mental form.

In Dresden, Germany, there has been established a school for locomotive apprentices who will be given an opportunity for special study on three evenings in the week and on Sunday mornings.



The Reason.

Grandma Gruff said a curious thing. "Boys may whistle, but girls must sing."

"That's the very thing I heard her say To Kate, no longer than yesterday.

"Boys may whistle." Of course, they may.

If they pucker their lips the proper way.

But for the life of me I can't see Why Kate can't whistle as well as me.

"Boys may whistle, but girls must sing."

Now I can't see a curious thing. If boys can whistle, why can't girls, too? It's the easiest thing in the world to do.

So, if the boys can whistle and do it well, Why can't girls—will somebody tell? Why can't they do what a boy can do? That is the thing I should like to know.

I went to father and asked him why girls couldn't whistle as well as I. And he said, "The reason that girls must sing is because a girl's sing-ular thing."

And grandma laughed till I knew she'd ache.

When I said I thought it all a mistake, "Never mind, little man," I heard her say.

"They will make you whistle once some day."

A Quick Reply.

Alice was very fond of molasses. One day she was corrected for calling it "lasses," and told that she ought to say molasses, to which she made instant reply, "Oh, yes, more 'lasses, more 'lasses,—that is just what I want."

Fish Fed by Hand.

Experiments made in a large aquarian have proved that fish may be easily tamed and trained. This is particularly true of blue perch. They soon consent to taking their food—salva, a green, lettuce-like weed—from the hand, and do not at all object to being handled. A huge kelp cod, a splendid specimen of rich blue green hues, that was kept in the same tank with the perch, readily learned to feed from the hand, and seemed to enjoy being scratched and rubbed.

Sea slugs, too—singular, shellless things possessing the faculty of secreting a purple fluid which they throw out in self-defence—took their regular meal of seaweed from their feeder's fingers without the slightest fear. Sticklebacks, perch, bass and catfish are among the most easily tamed fish, and the story is told of an old fisherman who day after day fed a large horse mackerel in the open sea with pieces of the fish he cleaned. It gradually got into the habit of coming nearer and nearer to where the boat was tethered until, finally convinced that it would not be harmed, it consented to take its daily meal directly from the fisherman's hand.

Pushball.

Do you know how to play pushball? It is a great game, and those who have tried it once are keen for more of the sport. In some ways it resembles football, but it requires a much larger ball. The weight of the ball is more than 50 pounds and it measures almost 6 feet in diameter. It is made of canvas, with leather seams and is inflated by means of a rubber bladder. Eight players make a team and there are two goals. Each team tries to push its opponents towards the goal. Instead of using the feet the hands are brought into active play. It is a hard thing to get the ball started in the right direction, but it is harder to get it stopped when it once has started.

The game is played in four periods of 10 minutes each, with intervals of three minutes. Pushing the ball over the goal-line counts two points and pushing it over the goal-line and between goal-posts counts three points.

The captain of the team winning the toss before the game begins decides whether his team shall push off or defend. The ball is placed in the center of the field for the pushoff. The defending team lining up against it. The team that pushes off may start the scrimmage at once or make a sort of flying wedge. When both sides touch it the ball is in play. If a team advances the ball in three pushes 10 yards or more they get three additional pushes, and do not give up possession of the ball unless the opposing team confines the total advance to three yards. When a goal is scored the teams change ends.

The positions are outside left, outside right, front rushline, inside left, inside right, outside left, outside right, rear rushline, inside left, inside right.

A New Game.

Here is a game that is fun when you are all sitting quietly some afternoon on the piazza. The game is called "What will you take to the picnic?" and is played in the following manner.

To begin with, only one should be let into the secret, as if all knew, it would be no fun. Suppose the hostess is the one familiar with the game. She then commences by announcing that she proposes to give a picnic, and that it depends upon what her guests bring whether they will be allowed to come or not. Each must furnish two articles of food.

She then asks the person nearest her: "What will you bring to the picnic?" If the name of neither of the articles the player mentions happens to be Christian or surname, the hostess says the player can not go, and immediately puts the question to the next person, and then all the way round, asking each: "What will you bring to the picnic?"

For example, suppose one girl's name is Mary Smith, and that her donation is candy and bread. Then she cannot go, for neither of her names commences with C or B; but if she took sandwiches and macaroons she would be doubly welcome, for M and S are both her initials. Should she take sugar and crackers she could go, for one of her names commences with S.

Continue to ask the question until everybody finally understands why they may either go or stay home from the picnic. It is very amusing when all but one or two have found out and they sometimes have to be asked over and over again, until they finally discover why they are not wanted.

Bird Politeness.

We may all learn something from the birds. I go to my barn in the morning to feed my chickens. The cockerel is as hungry as the hens, yet if I give him a choice bit he calls his family and gives it to the first to respond to his call. Put down food for all and he will eat. I have seen the males of some species of birds carry food to the nests of their setting mates. Some will occupy the nest and let their mates go bugging; and the male rose-breasted grosbeak never sings else where so softly and sweetly. One pair I watched many hours at a distance of twelve feet, became very tame, coming to me for dainties I carried. At such times the male would seem to say, "Now hear me sing in my sweetest; and put my song in your book."

F. C. Kirkwood was a careful observer, and he writes: "Several years ago it was my fortune to capture two young eagles of the bald-head species. When meat was thrown into the room where they were confined the male showed plainly how great was his desire to pounce upon it, but a glance from his sister was sufficient to keep him rooked to the perch until she had finished. When beef or other similar meals were given them this easy victory for the fair sex was the rule, but when a fish was introduced it was only after a fierce fight that the female succeeded in reminding her brother of the respect due her."

"A pair of young great-horned owls, which I at one time had, also displayed this female domination. I fed them principally on live rats, and when they were turned loose in the room the male retained a stolid and indifferent pose upon his perch until the female had satisfied her hunger, after which he would despatch what was left. Many other are the instances among the eagles, hawks and owls in which the female bird it is the master of the situation."

An Ungrateful Lad.

Last week a boy was brought up before the judge of the Children's Court to answer to a charge of theft. The circumstances connected with the crime showed such a spirit of ingratitude in the boy as is seldom met with. Kindness and love touch almost every boy's or girl's heart, but this poor lad had been brought up in such hard and unlovely surroundings that when sympathy and help were given him his heart failed to respond.

One bitterly cold night Jakey crept into the hall of a tenement house in one of the poorest quarters of a big city. He was cold and hungry, and sleepy too, but he had no home. His father and mother were dead and his elder brother had turned him out, saying that he was "no good." Even a "no good" boy has feelings, however, and Jakey was thinking bad thoughts against the world in general. Just then a woman with a shawl over her head and a basket of provisions on her arm came into the hall and saw Jakey. She asked him a few questions, then told him to get up and follow her upstairs.

On the fourth floor she opened a door and Jakey found himself in a warm room and got a whiff of soup simmering on the stove. My, but he felt fine now! And after he had had a hot supper the only thing he wanted was to lie down in the warm place and go to sleep.

Now, the kind woman who had befriended Jakey had four children of her own to take care of, and had little money besides the few dollars that her fifteen-year-old Bertha brought home every week. Of course, there were no extra beds, so she made up a bed on the floor for Jakey, and gave him a shawl for covering. Day after day he stayed in the house eating the potatoes bread and soup, of which there was none too much. Jakey was sixteen years old, a big, strong boy, but he was too lazy to work. One night the kind mother and her daughter held a consultation as to what they should do with Jakey. The ungrateful boy was even then lying in his corner and planning mischief, and the next morning when all the family was away he slipped into the tiny hall bedroom and, opening the bureau drawer, took out some pretty little trinkets that Bertha owned and loved. Then, hiding them in his clothes, he went out of the house to a pawnbroker's and with the few pennies that they brought he started out once more into the world. He had counted a bit too much on the kindness that had been shown him, and the day after he was confronted by a policeman, who placed him under arrest. Now, too late, Jakey remembers the saying "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."—New York Tribune.

Bridgesroom's Imagination.

A Berlin bridgesroom reported that he had swallowed his wedding ring, says the London Daily Mail. He suffered intense agonies, and vowed he was dying, until his pockets were searched for money to pay for a telegram, when the ring was found in the lining of his waistcoat. He became well in a few minutes.

SCIENCE NOTES.

Tattooing is now done with a needle driven by electricity.

A shaving of wood curls up owing to contraction on one side and expansion on the other. This expansion is accelerated by what is known as the "back iron" or "cap iron" which is used in most planes.

Crane and Friedlander, who have experimented on its bactericidal properties, find that roasted coffee is a decidedly active agent in the destruction of germs, including some of the more serious and important ones.

The total length of the navigable waterways of Belgium amounts to 1360 miles. The total area of the country is 11,373 square miles, there is one mile of waterway to every 8.12 square miles of territory; 85 percent of the navigable waterways is under the control of the state.

The Belgian authorities have decided to add three, instead of one, turbine mill packets to their Dover-Ostend service. The turbine engines and machinery are to be constructed in England and the vessels in Belgium. The vessels are to do the passage of 62 knots in about two hours and 20 minutes.

The first railway in Iceland will probably soon be begun by an English company recently formed for the purpose of working the sulphur mines at Theistareykir, in the north of Iceland, says The Times correspondent at Copenhagen. The mines are about 17 miles from Hupavik, the nearest harbor to which the proposed railway will run.

The Western Society of Engineers, at Chicago, Ill., recently heard a paper read by John M. Sweeney, on pulverized coal for combustion under steam boilers. Results of comparative trials showed that 9.4 pounds of water, equivalent evaporation from and at 212 degrees Fahr., were realized per pound of fuel with the pulverized coal, and 7.5 pounds per pound of fuel with hand firing. On the basis of combustible the equivalent evaporation in the two cases was 10.47 and 8.4 pounds, respectively.

The first section of the Piræus-Larissa railway was declared open recently. The chairman of the railway company, after the opening ceremony, pointed out the advantages to be derived, not only by Greece, but by international traffic, when the line was completed, and connected with the Turkish railway system; and he stated that within two months it would be open as far as Livadia, thus bringing the fertile district of Thessalia into railway communication with the sea, both at Chalcis and at the Piræus.

An excellent illustration of how electricity is superseding steam in many quarters is found in a contract recently awarded by a shipbuilding company of Buffalo. The company has decided to install electric power to pump out its floating dry docks in the Erie basin. The motors to be constructed will work the pumps much faster than the steam engines formerly in use, it being estimated that the docks can be cleared in two and one-half hours less time. To accomplish this a 35-horsepower motor will be located on each side of the two docks, and the electricity will be supplied by a cable laid along the bottom of the basin.

SCIENCE SAVES OYSTERS.

Impoverished Beds Greatly Improved by Artificial Means.

It has been observed that oysters grow much slower on some beds than on others; that in certain places they fail to fatten, writes Barton W. Everman in The National Geographical Magazine. These places were usually on overcrowded beds, and sometimes good results could be secured by transplanting or thinning out. Qualitative and quantitative study of the diatoms (which constitute the food of oysters) on beds where the oysters fatten well, and on other beds where they fatten poorly, showed that the number of diatoms per liter of water was very much greater in the former than in the latter.

It was, therefore, believed that if the supply of diatoms could be increased on the unproductive beds the oysters on them would grow and fatten. Experiments along these lines were recently inaugurated at Lynnhaven, Va., under the immediate direction of Dr. H. F. Moore of the bureau of fisheries. A small cove was selected where the bottom and the salinity of the water were favorable, but where diatoms were scarce. Commercial fertilizers of certain kinds were used to furnish food for the diatoms, and it was very soon found that the latter greatly increased in abundance, and lean oysters transferred to this cove fattened rapidly. Details of the process need not be given here, but it is believed that the experiments will demonstrate the entire practicability of the artificial feeding and fattening of oysters on a commercial basis.

Reunited After Many Years.

Capt. and Mrs. C. G. Thompson of Arkansas City were first married more than 50 years ago. After 25 years they were divorced, the wife alleging desertion. In the 25 years which followed Mrs. Thompson was married twice and buried both husbands, and Capt. Thompson was married once and divorced. Recently the pair came together by chance at Wichita, where both had gone to visit their daughter. A reconciliation was fixed up and their marriage followed.—Wichita Eagle.