

THE MASTER OF THE BOADICEA

Wonders Worked Aboard Ship by a Texan and a Gun.

By E. H. GOSSE.

Justice to the large field of close competitors was the only consideration that could have withheld from "Red-Eye" Heustis the name of being the worst all-round "bad man" in Texas, using the term in the amplitude of its Western significance. His escapes from lynching were numerous and romantic. He had missed legal execution chiefly because no sheriff had survived the preliminary operation of placing him under arrest.

Brutal as it was, "Red Eye's" treatment was not much worse than what fell to the lot of his companions. The Boadicea was no "happy ship." "Red Eye" came on duty in the morning, with no breakfast, he had no dinner because the mate "hazed" him through the day to even up for his previous idleness, and it was well along in the dog watch before he got below for what was left from the crew's supper. After the bracing sea air, the warm food, poor as it was, revived him wonderfully. They had not troubled to suffer his effects, and it was a different man from the stupefied, passive object of the earlier hours who went over to his bunk, took out a brace of guns and a well-filled cartridge belt, and started for the deck, seeking "the derved covote with th' brass buttons," otherwise Mr. Hanaford, the chief officer. When "Red Eye" came into view, the gentleman in question was leaning against a davit in the waist of the ship.

"What are you up here for?" "Trouble," answered the Texan, and there was a ring of deep sincerity in his tone.

It is the rule at sea, a principle that may account for the surprising success of more than one mutiny, that the very type of officers who garnish their orders with the greatest profusion of profane and insulting personalities, and who cultivate "bucko" tactics of discipline as a mannerism, are the sort most quickly cowed by a turn of the tables.

In the present instance there was less of a riot than one might have been led to anticipate from a knowledge of Mr. Hanaford's reputation as a general terror. He roared an oath and a command to go below at "Red Eye" and then threw up his hands, squirming and screaming with fright as the party relieved him of his armament. The second mate, roused by Mr. Hanaford's excited requests to be spared for his aged mother's sake, rushed up the companion-way brandishing a revolver, and the shot that welcomed him as he struck the quarter-deck took the feeling out of his wrist for an hour, and the mechanism out of his weapon for good.

By the time the boat was engaged in religious exercises in a remote corner of the most obscure hiding place he could find under the gallant fore-castle, and, running over the second mate for any additional arms he might be carrying, "Red Eye" went down to interview the captain. He met that worthy hastening on deck to interview him, relieved him of a shotgun and two navy revolvers, and marched him back into the cabin. The table showed preparations for a late breakfast, and the mutineer ordered the steward to bring it on forthwith, at the same time pressing the skipper to join him. Noticing the skipper's evident reluctance, he urged him to feel no embarrassment, as he, "Red Eye," was a rough and ready fellow and not above associating with any one, however humble his station and he his breeding never so neglected. Such tact, backed by an artfully careless display of artillery, was not lost upon the captain; he took a seat, and held his peace at an imminent risk of apoplexy.

While the meal proceeded, work on deck had been abandoned, and the inevitable sea lawyer had convinced the crew that whatever came their lot could be no worse than before, and that they could plead before the Admiralty Court that they had been coerced as much as the officers, and could not have assisted them without imperiling their lives. The appeals of the two mates consequently fell upon deaf ears. These gentlemen came aft and obtained permission from "Red Eye" to come to the table just about the time the skipper had recovered the gift of coherent speech.

"Now, my man," said he, impressively, "do you realize that this is mutiny?" "What's mutiny?" asked "Red Eye." Here was a poser. Doubtless tradition and the force of habit have much to do with preserving discipline aboard ship. The seaman has been taught by word and by symbols that his officers are his betters until he thoroughly, though sometimes reluctantly, believes in their resistance to them seldom occurs to him as a feasible idea. But when you find a man who never heard of the Board of Trade, who has always associated brass buttons with messengers boys and car porters, and who has been reared in the most democratic corner of a country where "all men are free and equal," you meet a new problem calling for executive talent in no ordinary degree. The captain of the Boadicea, who, to do him justice, was less of a fool than one might infer from the reputation of his ship, realized this fact more or less distinctly, and changed his tack accordingly. The subject of mutiny was dropped.

"Well, now, Mr.—ah—Mr.—"

"Heustis," put in "Red Eye."

"Well, now, Mr. Heustis, I have been considering. It appears to me that you are not the ordinary forecastle type, not at all, and now, I don't know, you see, a-h'm, you see we have no third mate this trip. What do you say, eh?"

"I want to rise up in meetin'," said the ungrateful Mr. Heustis, "and observe that I don't calculate to be no third mate. I want you to understand that from this on I'm boss of the whole derved show."

At first the powers that had been reared without hope, but the new commander ran across the medicine chest accidentally, and to guard against any criminal carelessness in the galleys, dumped the contents overboard en masse; likewise those who ventured near his room at unseasonable hours discovered that he slumbered lightly.

The great question was where should the vessel go? By owners' orders she was homeward bound for London, but "Red Eye," who had no appreciation of foreign travel, showed that fine independence which distinguishes great naval commanders and bade Mr. Hanaford to make for Texas. The vessel was now southwest of Cuba. Failing to subdue the mutineer, his victims had decided to make, by strategy, for the nearest English port, Kingston, and let the shore authorities show him such attention as his deeds merited.

It would have been quicker to go into New Orleans, but they were not sure that American law provided penalties adequate to the occasion. There was one difficulty, however, in the way of carrying out this program. It appeared from artful conversation that Mr. Heustis had discovered the location of the ship, as a corollary, therefore, he knew what course should be steered to bring them back to Galveston. Now from their then point of view there was a difference of some sixteen points between the bearings of Texas and Jamaica, and it was tempting Providence to expect a man of "Red Eye's" brilliancy to overlook, for the best part of a week, a matter involving half the compass.

It was in this quandary that Mr. Hanaford illustrated the wisdom of reading Board of Trade pamphlets, a practice not wholly recognized as helpful beyond question. In the quiet of the "12 to 4" watch he collected some bits of iron, a wrench, and other simple tools, and, getting the ship's binnacle apart more or less, began to misapply certain facts and principles bearing on the phenomena of deviation and local attraction. When his labors were done the chief obstacle in making Jamaica was overcome; the needle turned easily and gracefully due south when it should have been north, pointed north when it should have been south, and followed this inversion all around the circle, whatever way the ship swung, so that as the mate, in a scientist's enthusiasm, expressed it, they were prepared "to start in the middle and go both ways at once."

They did. During the succeeding days "Red Eye's" fancy took him nearer and nearer home and friends, while in reality he was steadily approaching the power of the British Admiralty. This season did not pass uneventfully, nor yet in a manner which would lead the skipper and his minions to cherish it in after years as a pleasant memory. For old acquaintance sake "Red Eye" saw to it that the boatman performed a variety of stunts not mentioned in the articles under which he shipped. As payment for his usage of the Texan during the earlier part of the voyage the chief officer took his meals in the forecastle, and, at such times as his services were not required in navigating the ship, he hystoned without interruption. Weather permitting, the crew assembled on the forecastle-head every dog watch, while the captain, at "Red Eye's" suggestion, mounted the capstan and entertained them with songs and recitations; as an encore he danced "hornpipes" on the main hatch.

On the morning of the fourth day after the coup d'etat, land was visible on port bow, very visible as "Red Eye" came on deck, and the town on the shore, while attractive and prettily situated—was not Galveston, neither were the surrounding hills any part of Texas. The flags that flew from various buildings along the waterfront were red and un-American, and one just like them was going to the peak of the Boadicea upside down, when all the bright visions of a cutter full of men-of-war's men faded from Mr. Hanaford's mind.

Off to starboard he beheld a ship of their rival company, not only a ship, but as he looked more intently, the ship, which carried their especial personal and professional London enemies. Would he and his captain, even at every appeal of justice and outraged dignity, put this Texan pirate in the hands of authority and proclaim to the world at large, and to the officers and crew of the Lord Devon in particular, that they, the terrible Boadicea, had been overpowered and held in terror of their lives by one man, a landsman at that, and a Yankee? Mr. Hanaford and his captain thought not.

A few hours later the little West Indian town was enlivened by the presence of a stranger, an American by his accent. He was dressed quietly, but with taste, in a blue suit of evident quality, but a close observer might notice something about it suggestive of second-hand; on each sleeve a little above the cuff, were three rows of stitching, where some former decoration had been ripped off. When questioned, he replied, for he was a man of his word, that he had come as a passenger for health and recreation on the bark that touched in there that morning. He was still spending money with a liberal hand, when, some days later, he took a cabin passage on the American packet, and Kingston knew him no more.—New York Post.

SCIENCE NOTES.

An East India medical journal reports the discovery, by Captain Rost, of a cure for leprosy. It is "leprolin," a substance analogous to Koch's "tuberculin."

A beauty doctor doing business in London undertakes to remove wrinkles and other lines in the face of a patron by repeated applications of a pneumatic cup, which draws the sunken tissues out.

It has been calculated that the power generated in a modern steamship in a single voyage across the Atlantic is more than enough to raise from the Nile and set in place every stone of one of the great Egyptian pyramids.

Telegrams received at Madrid state that the experiments which have been made in the Bay of Puerto Santa Maria, for the purpose of directing torpedoes by the aid of Herzian waves, have given entirely satisfactory results.

English miners are interested in a new compressed-air coal-cutter recently introduced by a Sheffield firm. The machine weighs only 150 pounds, and it is said that it can be used in seams so steep that the miner cannot stand upright, and so thin that he has to crawl on hands and knees.

The Brazilian government, convinced of the existence of immense supplies of underground water within its territories, proposes to organize a division of hydrology similar to that of the United States Geological Survey. Drilling outfits have already been purchased in this country. The colonial office of Bermuda has sought American expert advice in regard to obtaining a supply of water from underground sources in those islands, and there is a similar movement in Peru, where it is thought that water drawn from beneath the deserts may serve to irrigate the nearly rainless area along the coast.

The city of Hull, England, has 13 miles of wooden pavement, and is gradually substituting such pavement for the granite blocks hitherto used. It is as smooth as asphalt, but less slippery. After many experiments with woods from various parts of the world, the city authorities have settled upon the jarrah and karri woods from Western Australia as the best for the purpose. They are of a dark mahogany color. The blocks are cut to the size of large bricks, and are carefully laid upon a foundation of cement seven inches thick. Some of these pavements, laid from 7 to 10 years ago, are not yet in need of repair.

A Wonderful Herb.

Yerba Mate, the South American tea, is just now attracting the attention of Uncle Sam, and the herb may be introduced into this country as a substitute for ordinary tea and coffee. Yerba mate is a food as well as a stimulant, and its praises are sung by many of our consultants, who were asked to tell the department of commerce all about it.

"Its medicinal action," writes Consul Flagg, from Rosario, Argentine, "is to arrest rapid consumption of tissue and the consequent feeling of weariness that comes from excessive labor of mind and body. It certainly does prevent hunger."

"The Paraguayan retires to sleep after having eaten his heaviest meal, and in the morning he takes no breakfast, as we understand it, and on that alone works till nearly midday, doing his hardest work of the day."

"All of us may be subject to demands upon brain and body when both are more or less exhausted. If we take alcohol, there is danger of acquiring a bad habit; if we take coffee, there is danger of bringing about a bilious attack, and tea, though less dangerous, still has its victims; but here is a plant that millions of human beings resort to every day, and yet it is rare that one can find a person injured by its use."

It is said that more than 20,000,000 people in South America drink mate daily. It promotes digestion, soothes the nerves and gives activity to the brain.—(Washington correspondence of the Kansas City Journal.)

An Automobile Fire Department.

The municipal authorities at Vienna have determined to abandon the use of horses to draw their fire apparatus and to equip their service entirely on an automobile basis. The Vienna fire department is considered the best equipped of Continental Europe, and within 10 years it has replaced all obsolete apparatus with the most modern and useful devices. The first step taken was the ordering of fifty-three motor chemical engines and wagons to replace those previously drawn by horses, and which are most useful for dealing with small fires. When this has been accomplished the horse-drawn steam fire engines and the extension ladders will be replaced in some way not as yet determined. It is claimed that increased efficiency will follow the innovation, while there will be a saving of some \$15,500 per annum in the cost of maintaining the stations for which the fifty-three sets of apparatus have been ordered. The outlay will be about \$177,000.—Harper's Weekly.

Not What It Might Be.

"How do you like the cheese, sir?" asked the waiter.

"Huh!" grumbled the high liver, "it isn't half bad."

"Very sorry, sir," replied the waiter, "we were told it was thoroughly ripe."

—Philadelphia Press.

MEXICAN PEANUTS.

Process of Roasting Them Leaves a Superior Flavor, It is Said.

Where do the peanuts in Mexico come from? This is a question that few people can answer. Every one has noticed that the Mexican peanuts are of a superior variety and that they are very cheap, yet a few people know that the haciendados in Oaxaca make the raising of peanuts one of their principal side lines and every year ship hundreds of bushels of them to the capital and the other cities in the republic, says the Mexican Herald.

In Mexico as in the United States the peanut is one of the most popular knick-knacks. Every day dozens of peanut vendors may be seen around the Alameda and other places where people gather. It will be found that the peanuts sold by most of these vendors are very large and perfectly roasted. It is very seldom that a peanut is found that has been burned while roasting. It will also be noticed that for a Mexican cent nearly as many peanuts can be bought as is given in the United States for 5 cents gold.

The climate and soil of the state of Oaxaca is especially adapted to the growth of peanuts. There is scarcely a plantation in the state that does not cultivate the vine. When the nuts have matured they are gathered and shipped without having been roasted. On their arrival here they are taken to the very common form of Mexican oven.

The oven set apart for the roasting of peanuts has a large circular piece of fine netting in the interior. The netting is so arranged that the ends can be closed, making it look like a great corn popper. Several bushels of peanuts are placed in this net and then turned slowly over a charcoal fire. This process of roasting is a most successful one, as every nut is thoroughly roasted if the work is properly done and there is little chance for the peanuts to be burned.

After roasting, the peanuts are sold to the vendors. The vendors buy them for little money, and even with the large quantity that is given when they are bought at retail they make a large profit. The profuseness of their growth makes them very cheap on the plantations where they are raised, and as they are generally shipped in car-load lots and transportation charges do not add a great deal to their cost. The roasting process is also conducted with very little expense.

Americans generally when they first come to Mexico seldom buy peanuts. It is something new to them to stop on the street and buy a couple of cents' worth of them and have them delivered to your pocket direct without wrapping of any kind, yet when the ice is once broken, and they get used to the way they are handled in Mexico, they generally continue having them, as the process of roasting leaves all the flavor in the kernels, and they taste much better than the peanuts do that are generally sold in the United States, where the method of roasting so often takes away the richness of their taste.

A Breeze from the West.

One evening, not long ago, the after-dinner chat of a little coterie centered on the subject of the New Yorker and his blind devotion to the great eastern metropolis. One declared that the average New Yorker couldn't see over the Harlem flats; and another said that though there were undoubtedly some extremely clever people there, the thing that spoiled them for him was their ignorance of and contempt for anything outside of New York, especially in the west.

"It used to worry me a good deal whenever I met a cut-and-dried New Yorker," said one; "for I was born in Michigan and am glad of it, and whenever I was in New York I could not help feeling somehow that they looked on me in a half-patronizing way that always ruffled my feathers. But a few months ago I was out on the Pacific coast, and there I heard some one make a remark that made the New Yorker look so small that I wondered why I could ever have allowed him to worry me for a minute. The man was a fine type of western independence, and he was extolling the advantages of San Francisco, where he had been brought up. 'It's the finest city in the world to live in,' said he; 'we're right near Honolulu and Japan and Manila and in 'Frisco you can get anything you want.'"

"But," interposed an easterner who happened to be in the crowd, "you're so far from New York!"

"New York," said the Frisco man, with scathing indifference, "what would you want to go there for?"

—Detroit Free Press.

Russian Designs on Mongolia.

The Times is rather annoyed at the cool reception which Washington has given to its announcement of Russia's intention to violate Chinese neutrality in Mongolia. Both a Times correspondent and a Temps correspondent in St. Petersburg have spoken of the intention of Russia to move troops into Mongolia to protect herself against movements of Japanese troops which are alleged to violate the neutrality of China. But the Temps does not mention the allegation of The Times that Russia is proposing to China, to fix the boundaries of Mongolia in the region of present operations in such a manner as to prevent flanking operations of the Japanese without an infringement of neutrality. Even if Russia were claiming an impossible extension of Mongolian boundaries, it is a strong assumption that sending troops into Mongolia implies an intention to annex Chinese territory and open up the question of the partition of the empire.—London Truth.

AIDS NATURE'S WORK

EFFECT OF ACETYLENE RAYS ON GROWTH OF PLANTS.

Grow to Twice Actual Weight of Those Exposed to Sunlight Only—Latest Victory For This New and Beautiful Illuminant.

The experiments recently made at Cornell University prove that the beautiful rays from the gas, acetylene, are as effective as sunlight on the growth of plants, and this may soon become a subject for serious consideration by all progressive cultivators of the soil.

The results of the experiments are astonishing, inasmuch as they show conclusively the great increase of growth attained by supplementing "The Light of Nature" with "The Light of Acetylene" during the hours in which the plants would otherwise be in darkness. For instance, a certain number of radish plants subjected to acetylene light during the night grew to twice the actual weight of the same number of radishes given daylight only, all other conditions being equal, and peas had blossomed and partially matured pods with the help of acetylene light, while without the added light not even buds were apparent.

Acetylene is already taking its place as an illuminant for towns from a central plant, for lighting-houses, churches, schools and isolated buildings of all kinds, and it is being used successfully for many other purposes.

A striking and important feature of acetylene is the ease and small expense with which it can be made available compared with the great advantages derived from its use. The machine in which the gas is generated is easily installed.

A Gold Plated Lot.

A parcel of land in New York's financial district sold for nearly \$600 a square foot the other day, and this is said to be the record price in the western hemisphere. "Cover it with silver dollars and you can have it," said the owner to a young man who was seeking to make real estate sales 40 years ago. He took the proposition seriously, and figuring up the cost on this basis accepted the proposition. When the owner examined the figures and found them too low, he said that he meant the silver dollars should be piled on edge. Ten years ago the same man was told again that he could have the property if he covered it with gold dollars. A skyscraper will occupy the place, as it will be the only form of building that will offer sufficient rent space for a profit.

Could See His Heart.

In Moberly recently there was a man selling mullage who is a curiosity to the medical fraternity, as his left lung is eaten away with consumption and from six operations he had performed to obtain relief from physical ills a hole was made in his left side through which his heart could be plainly seen aid its throbbing witnessed. The main claims that by holding his nose and closing his mouth he is enabled to breathe through the hole in his side. He has photographs showing the hole in his side, and the carved-in appearance of the chest which is due to some of his ribs being removed. The man resides in Colorado, and has written a book about himself on which he will obtain a copyright.—Kansas City Journal.

Business First.

A Canadian teacher fell heir last year to an English estate of \$100,000. In the lawyer's office the client was told as to how she would take the money. She thought she would scream, two were of the opinion that she would burst into tears, two others favored hysterics. Her reply to the messenger was disconcerting: "I shall finish my monthly report, hear these spelling errors, whip two boys and be at your office in 40 minutes."

CHANGED HUSBAND.

Wife Made Wise Change in Food.

Change of diet is the only way to really cure stomach and bowel trouble. A woman says: "My husband had dyspepsia when we were married and had suffered from it for several years. It was almost impossible to find anything he could eat without bad results. 'I thought this was largely due to the use of coffee, and persuaded him to discontinue it. He did so, and began to drink Postum Food Coffee. The change did him good from the beginning, his digestion improved; he suffered much less from his nervousness, and when he added Grape-Nuts food to his diet he was soon entirely cured."

"My friend, Mrs. _____ of Vicksburg (my former home), had become a nervous wreck also from dyspepsia. Medicines had no effect, neither did travel help her. On my last visit some months ago, I persuaded her to use Grape-Nuts food. She was in despair, and consented. She stuck to it until it restored her health so completely that she is now the most enthusiastic friend of Grape-Nuts that I ever knew. She eats it with cream or dry, just as it comes from the package—keeps it in her room and eats it whenever she feels like it."

"I began eating Grape-Nuts food myself when my baby was two months old, and I don't know what I should have done without it. My appetite was gone. I was weak and nervous and afforded but very little nourishment for the child. The Grape-Nuts food, of which I soon grew very fond, speedily set all this right again, and the baby grew healthy, rosy and beautiful as a mother could wish. He is two years old now and eats Grape-Nuts food himself. I wish every tired young mother knew of the good that Grape-Nuts would do her."

Names given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

There's a reason,