

His Castle on the Rhine.

And How He Sold It to a Descendant of Its First Owner.

By F. A. MITCHEL.

Copyright by American Press Association, 1911.

On the left bank of the Rhine is the ruin of one of those old castles which have stood in that region for centuries. This particular castle some years ago was bought by Carl Bischoff, a German-American who had made a lot of money brewing lager beer. Bischoff bought with the castle a few pieces of furniture, pictures and other curiosities that were several hundred years old and had been handed down from one purchaser to another. With the decay of the castle and the gradual breaking up or loss of these articles all that remained had finally been concentrated in one room, which, when the owner was there, he used for a living and bed room. In this apartment was an antique fireplace big enough to roast an ox. Over the chimneypiece hung a picture that was especially prized by Carl Bischoff.

Bischoff was an admirable amateur chess player. Indeed, he had on several occasions tackled professionals with fair success. The reason he prized the picture that hung over the chimneypiece at his castle was because it represented a curious position between chess players. They were in medieval dress, the one long and thin with a black beard, the other stocky, whose beard was fiery red. The dark man wore his beard at a point, while his mustachios were turned upward, giving him a malignant expression. The red bearded man was of a pleasant countenance. The picture represented him looking on the board, evidently troubled at a prospect of being checkmated by his antagonist, who was regarding him with an expression of triumph. On a plate attached to the frame was the name of the picture in German, "Checkmate in Six Moves." There was a legend connected with the painting that the man who had built and owned the castle would some day return to repossess it. When he came—so the legend said—he would assume the position of the red bearded man in the picture, and instead of being checkmated in six moves he would checkmate in the same number.

Bischoff chuckled at this legend, saying that if any one could get his castle in that way he was welcome to do so. He had studied for hours trying to discover a method by which the short man could save himself and had failed. He considered the problem insoluble, and several chess experts who had seen the picture had agreed with him.

One autumn Bischoff, who had run over from America to Berlin, concluded to pay a visit to his castle to see that all was ready for the coming winter. A caretaker lived in a room that had been repaired and furnished for him and his wife and could provide what Bischoff required in the way of refreshments. Bischoff would be obliged to spend one night in the castle and would do so in the room already described.

It was a lowering afternoon when he reached the castle, clouds hanging low about the battlements. After making an inspection and talking over the conditions with his caretaker Bischoff, who had directed a fire be built in his chamber, dined there, and when he had finished pulled a big armchair up before the blazing logs. Not feeling especially happy in his gloomy abode, he directed his caretaker to make him a hot punch. This was set on a table beside him, and as the hours slowly passed he drove off his loneliness with frequent potations.

Presently he fell into a dose. How long he slept he didn't know, but the first thing he did know the door was opened and a man came into the room. Bischoff looked up, expecting to see the caretaker. He was mistaken. The person who entered was one he had never seen. He approached Bischoff with outstretched hand and with a cordiality that seemed more appropriate for a host than a guest. Then he drew a chair before the fire, warmed his hands and, taking a pipe from his pocket, began to smoke.

"Well," he said to Bischoff, "this is a dismal night without, but pleasant within. I'm glad you've made yourself comfortable."

Bischoff has never been very clear in his statements about this man. Were it not that he has been so sure he was awake and so explicit about some circumstances connected with the visit one would be warranted in assuming that he was dreaming. At first, he says, it only struck him that the man was very queer looking, very queerly dressed and wore a red beard. But at his entrance Bischoff did not connect him with the picture.

Bischoff was so astonished that for some time he made no response. Indeed, he couldn't think of anything to say. Finally he broke silence by asking in German:

"Whence come you?"

"From up the river. I have had a hard pull. Do you know I came near being caught in that whirlpool? I was pulling along when I heard a voice singing. Glancing up, I saw a beautiful woman looking at me, oh, so tenderly. I could not keep away from her.

Turning toward the shore, I soon found my boat was beginning to whirl. With a powerful effort I turned and pulled back into smooth water. The singing continued sweeter than before, but I stopped my ears with a bit of cloth I found in my boat and did not look toward the shore. I narrowly escaped the Lorelei."

"The Lorelei!" exclaimed Bischoff. "You tell your experience as if it had really happened. The Lorelei is a myth."

"Call her what you like. I don't wish any more of her. I'll take some of that punch. I need a bracer after my narrow escape."

Taking a mug from the mantel, he poured out some of the liquor and drank it off.

"One would judge from the way you conduct yourself," said Bischoff, "that you are at home here."

"I am."

"What do you mean?" snapped Bischoff angrily.

"Oh, don't get huffy. Let us enjoy ourselves together." Then, noticing a chessboard and chessmen on a table, he added:

"Do you play chess?"

"Yes."

"Well, there is no better way of spending an evening. Let us have a game."

He took up the chessboard, set the pitcher of punch aside, placed the board on the table, arranged the men. Without saying "by your leave," he took the first move. Bischoff, wondering at the man's audacity, lowered his eyes to the chessboard and soon forgot his astonishment in the game. He saw at once that the stranger was an excellent player. The game was a long one, and for some time neither gained an advantage; then Bischoff, thinking he saw a way to checkmate his antagonist, moved and looked up at his antagonist as if to say, "I'll soon have you now, my fine fellow."

The stranger looked up, too, and with a low laugh turned his head toward the picture of the chess players that hung over the chimneypiece. Bischoff glanced from the board to the picture, then back to the board. He started. The chessmen were in the same position as in the painting. Bischoff having the advantage. And then it dawned on Bischoff that his visitor and the man with the red beard were one and the same.

"I will checkmate you in six moves," said the stranger.

"You mean that I will checkmate you in six moves," said Bischoff.

"This against your castle that it is I who checkmates you." He drew forth a draft for 30,000 marks on a bank in Cologne.

"Done," said Bischoff.

His opponent took up a piece and moved it like an automaton. Bischoff moved again. On the stranger's fourth move something Bischoff had never counted on happened. It seemed to him that the tables were turned. After a long time he moved. The stranger moved again. Bischoff, who now lost his head, moved for the fifth time.

"Checkmate!" said the stranger, moving.

"You've won; the castle is yours!" gasped Bischoff.

The stranger chuckled.

"All this is very queer!" gasped the American, staring at the man with eyes as big as butter plates.

"You are mistaken. Nothing is queer. What is, is. You have only certain relations with the world of which you are conscious. You think the past is dead. Nothing is dead. Everything always lives, but all things change. Good night. This castle is now mine, but I leave you in possession for the present."

That's all Bischoff remembers of that memorable evening. The next morning he awoke sitting in his chair. The fire had gone out, and he was shivering. He left without even waiting for breakfast and offered the castle for sale. An agent found a purchaser, and before Bischoff returned to America he met the man in the agent's office to complete the sale.

He nearly fainted on recognizing in the new owner his visitor who had checkmated him at chess.

While the papers were being made out and the signatures appended Bischoff continued to stare at the purchaser, who gave no sign of ever having seen him before. The man was in modern dress, and his beard, though red, was cropped close. He had lost everything of his old fashioned appearance in the picture. In other words, he seemed to have been taken out of the fifteenth or sixteenth century and dropped into the twentieth.

"Have you ever been in the castle?" Bischoff asked him.

"No. I do not live in Germany. I have since my boyhood been in business in South America. It is there that I have acquired the means to recover the home of my ancestors."

At this point the agent finished working on the papers and said:

"Baron Becker comes into his own after many centuries. He is a lineal descendant of the original baron who built the castle. It was lost some 400 years ago at a game of chess. There is a legend that a descendant of its first owner would come again into its possession in the same way that it was lost to the family."

Bischoff was so affected at this information that he signed his receipts and hurried away without asking any questions, much to his regret ever since, for he appears to be in a middle about the whole affair. The only part of it about which he is certain is that he was wide awake and in his full senses when the events occurred in the agent's office.

He always ends his story with the remark, "There is so much legend about that Rhine country that some of it must be true."

NIKOLA TESLA HAS A NEW INVENTION.

Electrical Journal Says He Can Easily Transmit Great Energy.

A new development of a mechanical principle upon which Nikola Tesla is said to have been laboring for some years is described in the Electrical Review. This latest development in mechanics for which so much is claimed by friends of the inventor is based on the adhesion and viscosity of liquids and gases and is said to afford a novel means of generating and transmitting mechanical power.

Dr. Tesla is very optimistic about the results of his long experimentation, but will not discuss the matter for publication. He expressed surprise that any one had heard of his latest work before the appearance of his account of it in the electrical publication.

"The efficiency of the machines Dr. Tesla has constructed on this principle," the Electrical Review says, "is evidenced by their remarkable performance, small turbines or rotary engines being run at a peripheral speed scarcely more than half of that of reaction turbines and giving several times the output of the latter."

The article describes a small steam turbine recently exhibited in New York "having a motor only nine and three-quarter inches in diameter and two inches wide," which is said to be capable of developing 110 horsepower with free exhaust. This machine, it is further stated, has no blades, vanes, valves or sliding contacts of any kind.

"On account of the great simplicity of the apparatus, reversibility and extraordinary output," the article continues, "it will undoubtedly find an immense variety of uses, and the commercial world cannot fail to be deeply interested in this new development. The electrical industry in particular should be greatly benefited by this latest effort of Dr. Tesla."

STABS A MOUNTAIN LION.

Texas Farmer Slew a Beast That Had Killed His Child.

Maddened by the sight of a mountain lion standing over the dead body of his three-year-old son, Juan Morales, a farmer living seven miles from Brownsville, Tex., killed the beast with a knife thrust in the heart after a fifteen minute struggle, in which he sustained injuries which will cost an arm.

Morales had gone to a neighbor's on an errand and left his three children, aged three, seven and ten years, at home. His wife died some months ago. He was returning and heard the screams of his children. Rushing into the house, he saw a mountain lion, which weighed over 400 pounds, crouched over the lifeless and almost headless body of his little son.

The beast sprang at Morales, and the desperate fight began. Morales, who is forty-two years old and an athlete, tried for a strangle hold on the animal, which fought with its paws and was fast pulling the flesh from the right arm and shoulder of Morales when he managed to get out his knife and made several cuts at the mountain lion, which only made it more ferocious.

Morales was almost exhausted when he succeeded in driving the big blade of the knife into the heart of the animal and staggered from its grasp as it fell dead at his feet. Morales fainted, and his two little girls revived him with cold water and then helped him to bandage the wounds.

It was a long journey to town for medical aid, and, without a conveyance handy, Morales determined to make the trip on foot with his two surviving children. They had almost completed the journey when a man in a wagon picked them up and carried them to Brownsville.

Mississippi's New Senator. James K. Vardaman, who recently won in the primary election for United States senator from Mississippi, has been twice governor of the state. Senator Leroy C. Percy, the present incumbent, was elected by the legislature last year to fill the unexpired term of the late A. J. McLaurin, and his term will not expire till 1913. But Mr. Percy, who was a candidate for the full term against Vardaman, has signified his intention of resigning when the legislature meets in January, and Mr. Vardaman will undoubtedly be elected to fill out the balance of that

Acting Secretary of Navy Won't Lend It to Aid Celebration. Acting Secretary of the Navy Winthrop has denied the request of various civic organizations in San Francisco that the proposed cruise of the Pacific fleet to Hawaii be postponed so that the war vessels may take part in a naval parade incident to the breaking of ground for the Panama-Pacific exposition, which will take place on Oct. 14 next upon the occasion of President Taft's visit to San Francisco.

NO FLEET FOR SAN FRANCISCO

The Pacific fleet is scheduled to sail from San Diego on Oct. 1 for Honolulu. In denying the request Mr. Winthrop said the cruise could not be postponed without serious detriment to the fleet's efficiency.

His First Day at School. I know a little boy who starts Upon a journey far today, And, oh, the love of anxious hearts That follows him along the way!

A traveler to wondrous lands, He turns and smiles and waves again To one with wistful eyes who stands Already lonely at the pane.

She knows the road is rough and long For baby feet so soft and small; She knows how travelers brave and strong Neath stress and storm and burden fall.

But naught of woes her wanderer knows Nor reckons of the strife in store, Blithely, without a care, he goes, Like the gay venturers of yore.

Along that road are love and fame And good for all, yet some there be Who find at last but grief or shame, Whose end is pain and poverty.

Ah, mother of that little boy Who farest forth alone today, God grant your prayer that peace and joy Attend his footsteps all the way! —Leonard H. Robbins in Newark Evening

NEW TALES THAT ARE TOLD

Mr. Archbold's Bridge Hand.

John D. Archbold, the Standard Oil company's real head, is a bridge fiend. He lives beyond Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson, and in order to be certain of a pleasant daily game he bought a fast steam yacht some years ago. At the close of each business day Archbold and his friends go aboard. No man is admitted to the daily gathering unless he is a pluperfect past master of bridge whist. If his game falls off he is dropped from the daily party.



THE MEN CLUNG TO THE BOAT.

The other day two oarsmen went out unwisely on a windy day. Their frail shell "buckled" in the swell, and the pair were thrown into the drink just as the Vixen came whooping along. The Vixen's captain stopped her, maneuvered for a few moments in the choppy sea and finally got ropes to the men, who were desperately clinging to their boat. Archbold ran to the rail to see them helped on board. In his excitement he waved his hand as he was giving an order, and a fistful of lovely cards floated on the breeze. The men were taken into the engine room and dried off. Archbold visited them there.

"This should be a lesson to you, young men," said he. "You should be more careful."

They said they would be. They were profusely grateful for their rescue.

"You ought to be," said Archbold solemnly. "Do you know what this escapade of yours cost me?"

They didn't know, of course.

"The very best bridge hand I ever held in my life," said John D.

W. C. SPRY AUCTIONEER HOLDS SALES ANYWHERE IN STATE.

When you feel discouraged, nervous, tired, worried or despondent it is a sure sign you need MOTT'S NERVE-PILLS. They renew the normal vigor and make life worth living. Price \$1.00 by druggists. Mott's Nerve Pills WILLIAMS MFG. CO., Props., Cleveland, Ohio FOR SALE BY C. C. JADWIN.

W. C. SPRY AUCTIONEER HOLDS SALES ANYWHERE IN STATE.

MISSISSIPPI'S NEW SENATOR. James K. Vardaman, who recently won in the primary election for United States senator from Mississippi, has been twice governor of the state. Senator Leroy C. Percy, the present incumbent, was elected by the legislature last year to fill the unexpired term of the late A. J. McLaurin, and his term will not expire till 1913. But Mr. Percy, who was a candidate for the full term against Vardaman, has signified his intention of resigning when the legislature meets in January, and Mr. Vardaman will undoubtedly be elected to fill out the balance of that

Acting Secretary of Navy Won't Lend It to Aid Celebration. Acting Secretary of the Navy Winthrop has denied the request of various civic organizations in San Francisco that the proposed cruise of the Pacific fleet to Hawaii be postponed so that the war vessels may take part in a naval parade incident to the breaking of ground for the Panama-Pacific exposition, which will take place on Oct. 14 next upon the occasion of President Taft's visit to San Francisco.

NO FLEET FOR SAN FRANCISCO

The Pacific fleet is scheduled to sail from San Diego on Oct. 1 for Honolulu. In denying the request Mr. Winthrop said the cruise could not be postponed without serious detriment to the fleet's efficiency.

His First Day at School. I know a little boy who starts Upon a journey far today, And, oh, the love of anxious hearts That follows him along the way!

A traveler to wondrous lands, He turns and smiles and waves again To one with wistful eyes who stands Already lonely at the pane.

She knows the road is rough and long For baby feet so soft and small; She knows how travelers brave and strong Neath stress and storm and burden fall.

But naught of woes her wanderer knows Nor reckons of the strife in store, Blithely, without a care, he goes, Like the gay venturers of yore.

Along that road are love and fame And good for all, yet some there be Who find at last but grief or shame, Whose end is pain and poverty.

WORLD'S BIGGEST WARSHIPS.

Two New Ones For American Navy to Hold the Record.

The two new battleships authorized by the last naval act probably will be of 28,500 tons displacement, or the biggest war vessels in the world. The largest ships so far designed for the American navy are the New York and Texas, with a displacement of 27,000 tons each, and it became known only recently that the navy department contemplated exceeding their size.

The new ships will have heavier armor than ever before put on a battleship, which accounts for their increased displacement. The armament of the new vessels will be the same as the New York and Texas, with a main battery of ten fourteen-inch guns.

With this approach to a 30,000 ton battleship the naval ordnance experts are considering the question of a sixteen inch gun. It will require a 35,000 ton battleship to withstand the terrific recoil from a main battery of ten sixteen-inch guns.

The Orange in Spain. It is considered a very healthful thing to eat an orange before breakfast. But who can eat an orange well? One must go to Spain to see that done. The senorita cuts off the rind with her silver knife, then, putting her fork into the peeled fruit, she detaches every morsel with her pearly teeth and continues to eat the orange without losing a drop of the juice and lays down the core with the fork still in it.

"What is the funniest thing you ever heard of?"

"Why, I guess it's Henpeck's wife pitying a man she could have married, but didn't."—Houston Post.

"Your ode to Niagara is the real thing. I felt that way when I first saw the falls." "I have never seen the falls," explained the poet. "I got the idea from reading a railway booklet."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

When you feel discouraged, nervous, tired, worried or despondent it is a sure sign you need MOTT'S NERVE-PILLS. They renew the normal vigor and make life worth living. Price \$1.00 by druggists. Mott's Nerve Pills WILLIAMS MFG. CO., Props., Cleveland, Ohio FOR SALE BY C. C. JADWIN.

W. C. SPRY AUCTIONEER HOLDS SALES ANYWHERE IN STATE.

When you feel discouraged, nervous, tired, worried or despondent it is a sure sign you need MOTT'S NERVE-PILLS. They renew the normal vigor and make life worth living. Price \$1.00 by druggists. Mott's Nerve Pills WILLIAMS MFG. CO., Props., Cleveland, Ohio FOR SALE BY C. C. JADWIN.

MISSISSIPPI'S NEW SENATOR. James K. Vardaman, who recently won in the primary election for United States senator from Mississippi, has been twice governor of the state. Senator Leroy C. Percy, the present incumbent, was elected by the legislature last year to fill the unexpired term of the late A. J. McLaurin, and his term will not expire till 1913. But Mr. Percy, who was a candidate for the full term against Vardaman, has signified his intention of resigning when the legislature meets in January, and Mr. Vardaman will undoubtedly be elected to fill out the balance of that

Acting Secretary of Navy Won't Lend It to Aid Celebration. Acting Secretary of the Navy Winthrop has denied the request of various civic organizations in San Francisco that the proposed cruise of the Pacific fleet to Hawaii be postponed so that the war vessels may take part in a naval parade incident to the breaking of ground for the Panama-Pacific exposition, which will take place on Oct. 14 next upon the occasion of President Taft's visit to San Francisco.

NO FLEET FOR SAN FRANCISCO. The Pacific fleet is scheduled to sail from San Diego on Oct. 1 for Honolulu. In denying the request Mr. Winthrop said the cruise could not be postponed without serious detriment to the fleet's efficiency.

NO FLEET FOR SAN FRANCISCO

The Pacific fleet is scheduled to sail from San Diego on Oct. 1 for Honolulu. In denying the request Mr. Winthrop said the cruise could not be postponed without serious detriment to the fleet's efficiency.

His First Day at School. I know a little boy who starts Upon a journey far today, And, oh, the love of anxious hearts That follows him along the way!

A traveler to wondrous lands, He turns and smiles and waves again To one with wistful eyes who stands Already lonely at the pane.

She knows the road is rough and long For baby feet so soft and small; She knows how travelers brave and strong Neath stress and storm and burden fall.

But naught of woes her wanderer knows Nor reckons of the strife in store, Blithely, without a care, he goes, Like the gay venturers of yore.

Along that road are love and fame And good for all, yet some there be Who find at last but grief or shame, Whose end is pain and poverty.

JOSEPH N. WELCH Fire Insurance

The OLDEST Fire Insurance Agency in Wayne County.

Office: Second floor Masonic Building, over C. C. Jadwin's drug store, Honesdale.

M. LEE BRAMAN EVERYTHING IN CIVERY

Buss for Every Train and Town Calls.

Horses always for sale

Boarding and Accomodations for Farmers

Prompt and polite attention at all times.

ALLEN HOUSE BARN

MARTIN CAUFIELD

Designer and Manufacturer of

ARTISTIC MEMORIALS

Office and Works 1036 MAIN ST.

HONESDALE, PA.

CLOSING OUT SUMMER GOODS AT LESS THAN COST

To Clean Up Stock -AT- MENNER & CO. Keystone Stores.

Consisting of Made Up Goods for Ladies, Juniors and Misses. Wash Tailor Suits, Newest Styles. House Dresses, Wrappers & Kimonas, White Lawn and Marquisette One Piece Dresses.

Kimona Shirt Waists and High and Low Neck Waists. Long Coats in Light Weight Wool, Pongee and Linen. Separate Skirts and Jackets will be sold low to close out all remaining stock.

MENNER & CO. Department Stores

KRAFT & CONGER INSURANCE

HONESDALE, PA.

Represent Reliable Companies ONLY

FOR RESULTS ADVERTISE IN THE CITIZEN