

The Wind in the Trees.

By SEAMAN BRIGHT

Whirr-r-r!
Meadows, the sub-editor, threw down his pen impatiently and crossed the room to the telephone.

"Yes?"

"Gentleman wants to see Mr. Pelham, sir."

"Mr. Pelham is very busy. Tell the gentleman to send up his name and business."

"What's the row?" broke in Pelham, looking up from his desk.

"Some one wants to see you. Dare say it's another confounded anecdote about the Japanese Prince or the King." And Meadows, whom the royal affairs of England and Japan had somewhat wearied that day, walked across to the window and stood for a moment looking down into the misty shadows of the street.

The traffic of the day had thinned out now; it was 10 o'clock, and save for the flitting lights of an occasional cab carrying a night editor to his office, and the flapping of the English and Japanese flags at the window opposite, Fleet street was silent and deserted.

The bell rang again.

"Never mind, old man, I'll see to it this time myself," said Pelham as he rose and crossed the room.

"The gentleman says he must see you, sir. It's most particular," answered the halcyon in response to his imperative demand. "And he ain't got no name. He's a little foreign lookin' gent, sir, and he seems a bit doty," came to Pelham in a hoarse whisper. "He says I'm to tell you a friend from the East has called, and wants to know if you remember something or other about the wind in the trees?"

"A friend from the East! The wind in the—Good Lord!" broke off Pelham suddenly, dropping the receiver in his excitement.

"What's up?" asked Meadows, turning round.

"I think I once told you about an incident that happened soon after the passage of the Yalu—the one in which a Japanese celebrity saved the life of an English war correspondent, and the same day located a concealed Russian position by watching the passage of their bullets through a clump of foliage. He called it 'the wind in the trees?'"

Meadows nodded.

"Well, I think I also told you the correspondent said some things that day, that would horses wouldn't have dragged from him at a saner moment. Among them he told his Japanese excellency that if ever the chance came to return the favor in any way it would be done. It seemed extremely improbable, and a bit highfown when it was out; but, curiously enough, his excellency took it quite seriously. He said the big things of life were never done of ourselves—the little things, and this promise he felt belonged to the big things. When the day came to claim it, he said he would ask me to remember the wind in the trees."

"By Jove! You?"

"I mean to say there's some one from the East downstairs who wants to know if I remember 'the wind in the trees,'" answered Pelham tersely.

The room seemed very quiet for a moment, as he finished speaking, and in the silence the flapping of the English and Japanese flags at a window opposite sounded curiously loud and insistent.

"But it couldn't possibly be," argued Meadows, as he recovered from his astonishment. "The latest fables from Japan confirm the statement, made some time ago, that he had temporarily abandoned public life and retired for the summer to a remote country estate."

"The Japanese are a very wonderful people," smiled Pelham enigmatically, and, crossing to the telephone, he sent down an urgent message.

Meadows took down his hat, and a moment later opened the door, as an elderly, clean shaven man, with Oriental eyes, stepped out of the lift.

He bowed courteously to the former as he passed, then turned to Pelham with a smile.

"I beg your excellency's pardon," stammered Pelham, as he recovered himself. "But the loss of your beard and mustache makes a tremendous difference; and besides, the news agencies—"

"Ah, yes! The news agencies, poor things, are sadly deceived," laughed his excellency, as he came in and closed the door. "They think I am nicely docketed and put away for the summer months, when lo! here I am in their very holy of holies itself—the immortal Fleet street. Ah, well!" he went on, as he took the chair Pelham brought forward, "life is a daily miracle, only we are so used to it we forget to wonder. But you, my friend," turning kindly eyes on Pelham, "how goes it with you since we said good-bye among the Russian guns? You are a great newspaper proprietor nowadays, are you not? They tell me you own the most powerful journal in all England?"

"It certainly has the largest circulation," smiled Pelham, "and a great deal of it I owe to your excellency. Those articles you allowed me to send home from the front built up a reputation—"

"And brains did the rest. Good. Brains are wonderful things. Better than money or muscle, and almost, but not quite, as good as principles. The gods take particular care of the principles. But you would know why I am here to night," he went on, in response to the inquiry in Pelham's eyes.

"What strange fate brings me

third and last day came, without either event having happened.

On the contrary, the sales of The Rapier far outpaced the output of the printing presses, and still the Government made no sign.

Coming as such a violent counterblast to prevalent newspaper opinion, the articles eclipsed even the royal visit round which they centered, and became the sensation of the hour.

Their point, their brilliancy, their marvellous grasp of international politics, were qualities before which even the bitterness they evoked was forced to subside, and at the end of the third and last day of their appearance, the question, "Who wrote them?" had not only practically obscured the part The Rapier had played in the whole affair, but left Pelham thoroughly satisfied in his own mind that no very permanent injury would follow "the wind in the trees."

"Truly the gods do take care of the principles," he thought, with mingled relief and gratitude, as he threw open the office window and looked out into the calm serenity of the night.

Everywhere men were making misty old Fleet street gay with decorations in honor of the Japanese Prince's visit to the city on the morrow, and the flags of the two nations at the window opposite hung tranquilly in the still air.

As he looked at them, Pelham wondered if their repose really symbolized a bigger item in the world's history than even the advent of a Japanese Prince, and he had begun to abandon himself to a long train of political speculation, when a cab drew up outside the offices of The Rapier.

For the moment he thought it was Meadows who had arrived, but the man who descended from the cab gave Pelham a thrill of excitement his friend and brother editor had never done.

"I have come to thank you, and to explain," said his excellency, when they met a moment later.

He looked very tired and old, notwithstanding the indomitable light in his eyes, and something of Pelham's thought reached him before he spoke again.

"Ah, yes! It has been a trying time for you and for me," he said, "but it is over now, and we can congratulate ourselves on having sealed a new friendship between England and Japan for a long time to come. Years ago," he went on in response to Pelham's puzzled expression, "two nations of the East and the West made an alliance. It was an alliance of esteem as well as of interest, and the gods smiled, because it made for the peace and progress of the world. But time flies fast, and all too soon the term of years covered by the contract began to draw to a close. This term had been a source of deep regret to certain statesmen of both countries—they had always considered it far too brief—and now as the friendship of the two nations officially neared its end, these men sought to safeguard the future by absorbing the remnant of the old treaty in a new one."

He paused for a moment as if waiting for Pelham, but the latter was too spellbound by what he had heard to speak.

"For this purpose," continued his excellency, "a son of our Emperor came to England. Ostensibly the visit had little political significance, but in reality its object was to discuss and, if possible, settle certain aspects of the agreement. And in the wake of the prince came, secretly and alone, an old watch dog of the Empire."

"This old watch dog," resumed his excellency a moment later, "had spent his youth in England, and it was to his knowledge of the English character that the Emperor now confided the final decision of Japan. This decision, in the last issue, centered round a question of English public opinion, and thanks to your aid in the matter, Mr. Pelham, my course has been made an easy and an obvious one. At any rate," he concluded with a smile, "I had sufficient faith in our experiment to sign a new treaty this afternoon between England and Japan."

"But, your excellency, no one dreams!"

"No one!" The secret has been marvellously well kept, and outside ourselves and the statesmen immediately concerned, few in England or Japan have any idea of the momentous document signed this afternoon. For your part in the affair, my friend," he went on, "the Japanese Government—indeed, I may say the two governments—are deeply grateful; and although they cannot of course take official cognizance of the matter, they have deputed me to make the following proposal, in the hope that it may redeem any injury your newspaper may have suffered. Here," and he drew a document from his pocket, "is a rough draft of the salient clauses in the new treaty, and I am at liberty to offer you the choice of publishing it twenty-four hours ahead of all your rivals."

Pelham's face was very white and his voice, when he spoke, uncertain.

"Your excellency means?"

"I mean, my friend, that the Governments of England and Japan have agreed to withhold the official announcement of the new treaty for a period of twenty-four hours," said his excellency. "In the meantime they offer you the privilege of publishing the news, without reserve. You will not only be the first to announce publicly the greatest political secret of modern times, but even the actual terms of the document I now place unreservedly at your disposal. No, no, my friend," as Pelham would speak, "do not thank me, rather the

gods, who have once more proved their ability to take care of the principles. And now, my friend," as he rose to go, "we must say farewell. My country has more work for me to do out there," pointing to the East, "and I go to-night. We may not meet again on this sphere, for I am old and my body is growing tired; but souls that are akin have a place of meeting—somewhere. We will not say 'good-bye,' then—let it be, 'till we meet again!'"

He held out his hand as he spoke, and for a moment they stood in silence—the East and the West—the one man young and strong, the other old and tired; but the spirit in the eyes of both was the same. It knew neither Youth nor Age, but eternally works for Freedom, Right and Progress; it was the spirit that prospered the growth of England, and fires the heart of New Japan.—Black and White.

Paris is experimenting with what is called steel pavement. It is really a concrete pavement reinforced with a steel framework. The metal part of the pavement is a plate of perforated steel, with strong bolts of steel running through it between the perforations. Each section has some resemblance to a steel harrow, only the prongs project equally, on each side, and they are square and blunt. It will be superior to asphalt in ultimate economy and to wood both in the better footing that it affords to horses and in the fact that it will not admit of dangerous ruts developing. The sample laid cost \$5.40 a square meter (a little more than a square yard), but when the work is done on a large scale it is believed the price can be cut to about \$4.50.



The origin of the great banks of Newfoundland is said to have been in the boulders carried down by icebergs. The bank is 600 miles long and 120 broad.

Prof. W. H. Reed, paleontologist of the University of Wyoming, has made several important fossil discoveries in "Hell's Half Acre," thirty-five miles southwest of Casper, Wyoming. Among them is the complete skeleton of a horse which was no larger than a fox of to-day. This skeleton demonstrates, it is contended, that Wyoming was the birthplace of the equine race. Another fossil is perfect and is a replica of the beaver of the present day. The complete skeleton of a dog of the tertiary age was dug up, the size of the animal not differing from that of the average dog of the present, but the long, sharp teeth showing that the ancestor of the present canine was a flesh-eater and hunter. The newly discovered fossils are to be added to the university museum.

So extensive has the utilization of streams for industrial purposes become in France that the Minister of Agriculture has instituted a commission to study the best means of protecting them. It is stated that many streams have been virtually destroyed for the sake of industrial establishments, that certain small water-courses have disappeared entirely, and that the effect in some places has been to transform the physical features of the country. The intention is not to prohibit the use of the waters, for modern industry demands more and more of that, but to regulate it so that the streams may at the same time be preserved for their beauty and their usefulness.

The effective range of torpedoes is increasing, and is now from 3500 to 4000 yards.

Not long ago the farmers and cultivators in Algeria often went to considerable expense to destroy the dwarf palms which abound in that part of Africa. Now, thanks to the constant progress of practical science, these same once despised plants have become a source of wealth, and are consequently cultivated in their turn. Their leaves furnish fibres from which, by very simple processes, is produced a substitute for horsehair in the manufacture of mattresses and of the filling for cushions, chairs and so forth. Other plants likewise furnish fibres which are utilized for a similar purpose, but the African dwarf palm at present holds the lead in this industry.

Recently a traveler chanced upon a resident of a sleepy hamlet.

"Are you a native of this town?" asked the traveler.

"Am I what?" languidly asked the one addressed.

"Are you a native of the town?"

"What's that?"

"I asked you whether you were a native of the place?"

At this juncture there appeared at the open door of the cabin the man's wife—tall, sallow and gaunt. After a careful survey of the questioner, she said:

"Ain't yo' got no sense, Bill? He means was yo' livin' heah when yo' was born, or was yo' born befoah yo' begun livin' heah. Now answer him."

—Success.

The Watermelon.

What is a watermelon, anyway? Nothing but a thick rind, a small quantity of sweetish pulp and a whole lot of water.—Chicago Tribune.

ARTICULAR PAINTS

GRAPE DISEASES.

Three principal diseases attack the grape. They are the black rot, the downy mildew and anthracnose. The remedy for all is the same—spraying every two weeks with Bordeaux mixture from the time the buds swell in the spring until the grapes begin to ripen.

BORDEAUX MIXTURE.

The botanist of the Massachusetts Experiment Station calls attention to the fact that Bordeaux mixture exercises a tonic influence on vegetation and that the benefits following its use are not due solely to the prevention of diseases, but in a considerable extent as well to the increased vigor of growth. He also says the lime and sulphur treatment of San Jose scale has a beneficial influence in preventing fungous diseases, and expresses the hope that "the San Jose scale may prove a blessing in disguise."—The Country Gentleman.

LATE CROP OF FLOWERS.

Tea and hybrid perpetual roses should be given a good deal of attention in order to secure a late crop of flowers. The treatment is about the same for both. Make the soil rich, in order to encourage growth. Cut back the branches to some strong bud. This will develop into a branch, from which you may hope to get flowers. Your hope will not always be realized, with the hybrid perpetuals, but you may reasonably expect it to be with the tea, which often keep on flowering until the ground freezes.—American Homes and Gardens.

SCALE ON FRUIT.

The new Idaho and Oregon horticultural laws give authority to inspectors to destroy all fruit found infested with San Jose scale. The advisability of this measure is not generally approved for adoption in other States. This San Jose scale dies as soon as the fruit decays, or as soon as the place on which it lives dries up; therefore it is not probable that there could be any infestation from scaly fruit as it is handled in the kitchens or markets. The enforcement of such a law, however, might be a factor in producing more thorough treatment of infested orchards.—The Country Gentleman.

EVAPORATING APPLE BUSINESS.

The method of evaporating apples is described in the recent Farmers' Bulletin No. 291, including an account of the necessary buildings and apparatus for conducting the business. It is figured that one bushel of fresh fruit will make about six and one-half pounds of commercial evaporated apples and three and one-half pounds of waste. The price of the evaporated apples has ranged from three and one-half to seven and one-half cents during the past three or four years. The waste is usually relied upon to just about pay for the fuel used in evaporating the entire amount of fruit. An evaporating plant intended to handle a large amount of fruit costs, fully equipped, about \$2700, with a capacity of 300 bushels per day of ten hours. A small evaporator, however, suitable for seventy-five to 100 bushels of fruit at each filling, can be set up for about \$90.

OVERFEEDING TOMATOES.

Professor Sandsten, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has demonstrated that the use of excessive quantities of fertilizers exercises a truly remarkable effect upon tomatoes. The plants react differently to overfeeding. Some are dwarfed, some lie flat upon the ground, and in many the flowers and fruits are very abnormal.

On two different types of plants thus produced seedless tomatoes were grown. One specimen produced a large, solid tomato, while the other bore fruit not larger than a walnut. Both types come true when propagated from cuttings. Several other plants were obtained which produced fruits of intermediate character, with fewer seeds than in normal tomatoes, and irregularly distributed. Professor Sandsten does not consider either type of the seedless tomato commercially valuable at present, but they may become so.—The Country Gentleman.

WHEAT FOR LAYING HENS.

We are not the only ones who think highly of wheat for laying hens. One of our contemporaries says: "While growers have long recognized the value of wheat for laying hens, attention has been recently accidentally called to its value as an egg-producer. At the time we hauled our wheat to the barn, the hens had almost ceased to lay. The wheat was unloaded from the wagon outside of the barn, and the scatterings were picked up by the hens. In a few days the egg product increased from five or six to sixteen or eighteen, and so continued for about two weeks, and then again dropped off. Three weeks later the threshing was done, and the hens had access to the straw stack, especially among the chaff that remained on and near the ground. The result is about two dozen eggs per day at the present time. We have taken the hint, and are now feeding about two quarts of low-grade wheat per day among the chaff, in the scratching room. At that rate, a bushel will last about two weeks. The money value of the increase is about \$1.70 per week."—Witness.

BUSINESS CARDS.

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MARKETS.

PITTSBURG.

Wheat—No. 2 red.....	\$ 90	99
Rye.....	75	75
Corn—No. 2 yellow ear.....	75	75
No. 2 yellow, shelled.....	73	72
Mixed ear.....	81	62
Oats—No. 2 white.....	55	54
No. 3 white.....	53	52
Flour—Winter patent.....	4 50	4 75
Fancy straight winter.....	4 31	4 50
Hay—No. 1 Timothy, fresh.....	19 03	19 50
Clover No. 1.....	17 50	18 00
Feed—No. 1 white mid. ton.....	34 00	25 50
Brown middlings.....	29 00	28 50
Brass, bulk.....	25 51	25 00
Straw—Wheat.....	10 00	10 50
Oat.....	10 00	11 50

Dairy Products.

Butter—Eight creamery.....	\$ 39	39
Ohio creamery.....	22	34
Fancy country roll.....	14	30
Cheese—Ohio, new.....	14	15
New York, new.....	14	15

Poultry, Etc.

Hens—per lb.....	\$ 17	18
Chickens—dressed.....	22	24
Eggs—Pa. and Ohio, fresh.....	50	53

Fruits and Vegetables.

Potatoes—Fancy white per bu.....	70	75
Cabbage—per ton.....	15 00	16 00
Onions—per barrel.....	1 50	2 25

BALTIMORE.

Flour—Winter Patent.....	\$ 4 45	4 80
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	1 03	1 03
Corn—No. 2 white, fresh.....	5 15	5 43
Eggs.....	52	35
Butter—Ohio creamery.....	25	37

PHILADELPHIA.

Flour—Winter Patent.....	\$ 4 30	4 75
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	47	1 08
Corn—No. 2 white.....	41	45
Butter—Creamery.....	36	38
Eggs—Pennsylvania firsts.....	32	33

NEW YORK.

Flour—Patents.....	\$ 4 60	4 70
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	1 08	1 08
Corn—No. 2 white.....	66	67
Oats—No. 2 white.....	51	57
Butter—Creamery.....	42	37
Eggs—State and Pennsylvania.....	32	33

LIVE STOCK.

Union Stock Yards, Pittsburg.

Cattle.

Extra, 1,450 to 1,800 lbs.....	\$ 6 90	6 35
Prime, 1,300 to 1,400 lbs.....	5 90	6 15
Good, 1,200 to 1,300 lbs.....	5 50	5 80
Fdg., 4,500 and 5,000 lbs.....	5 15	5 41
Common, 700 to 900 lbs.....	4 00	4 00
Oxen.....	3 25	4 00
Bulls.....	2 50	3 75
Calves.....	3 50	3 75
Heifers, 700 to 1,300.....	2 50	4 40
Fresh Cows and Springs.....	16 00	59 91

Hogs.

Prime heavy.....	\$ 7 20	7 10
Prime medium weight.....	7 15	7 25
Best heavy Yorkers.....	7 35	7 30
Good light Yorkers.....	7 30	7 35
Pigs.....	6 30	6 50
Houghs.....	5 90	5 50
Stags.....	5 50	4 00

Sheep.

Prime wethers, clipped.....	\$ 5 60	5 75
Good mixed.....	5 25	5 50
Fair mixed ewes and wethers.....	4 50	5 00
Culls and common.....	2 00	3 00
Lambs.....	4 50	7 75

Calves.

Veal calves.....	\$ 3 00	3 50
Heavy and thin calves.....	5 00	5 00

Grandson of Robert Burns.

The great-grandson of Robert Burns, the poet, has recently been acting as Judge of the Police Court of Louisville. His name is J. Marshall Chatterton and for many years he has been an attorney in Louisville.

Through advances in surgical and medical science, more and more diseases are found to be preventable, while more and more of those which used to be thought incurable are shown to be capable of treatment, so that the average of health rises with that of the duration of life, says the Hon. James Bryce in The Atlantic. One drawback, however, is serious enough to be specially mentioned. Lunacy is increasing in all countries which keep a statistical record of mental maladies, and the increase is too large to be explained merely by the fact that records are now more accurate. Unless this fact can be accounted for by the abuse of intoxicants, an abuse which seems to be rather decreasing than increasing, it is ominous, because it seems to imply that there are factors in modern life which tend to breed disorders in the brain. But we have not sufficient data for positive conclusions. In this connection a still more serious question arises.