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[By Leonard Oatman.]

They were out on the veranda in the cool of the evening, old Caleb Loring in a rocking chair, smoking his corncob pipe; Bertha, his daughter, swinging in a low hammock, and her husband, Edmond Hackett, who was perched upon the wooden balustrade.

"Think it over? I shall never forget this talk of yours, Wilton. A germ conceived is half executed. May I never hear more of this combination of yours, in joke or in fact, will be my prayer from this day to God in heaven."

"If one is missing," began Bertha, but the senior lady interrupted her. "Missing? No, nothing is missing at all. There is said to have been one too many."

SEND US ONE DOLLAR... THE ACME QUEEN... SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

More About That Alliance.

From Philadelphia City and State. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's recent speech at Leicester, in which he made very positive reference to the existence of some sort of alliance or understanding between Great Britain and the United States, must have a very disturbing effect in this country.

"Uncle Sam," remarked Edmond Hackett, a quiet, steady-going sort of fellow, well advanced toward middle life, "Uncle Sam is not generous to us boys and girls of the civil service."

A few days after this conversation Bertha Hackett sat in the office of the Redemption Division assisting Mrs. Lawson, the senior lady of the department to count a package of "big bills."

"But there was a respite for himself and for his wife. The Treasurer himself was closeted with the Secretary."

"But this was the shortage which Edmond and Wilton had reported, and it was happily met by the excess in the other packet. So beyond an amonition tempered in mercy for the manifest distress of the girl, Bertha got into no trouble."

SEND NO MONEY... SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

What, then, does Mr. Chamberlain refer to? Does some secret understanding exist between the two great nations, both of which are engaged in wars that show striking points of resemblance—Great Britain is fighting for the destruction of a miniature republic in Africa; the Republican administration, for the extinction of an infant republic in the Philippines.

"Don't like to hear you talk like that, Wilton," remarked old Caleb, with a quick shake of the head, as if a mosquito had settled on him.

"One moment, Mr. Hackett! I'm engaged," was the sharp, peremptory dismissal, and he perforce withdrew, postponing the declaration. As he passed the door, he struck the hour of his luncheon interval. It was the custom of the family to meet at home for their midday meal.

"One moment, Mr. Hackett! I'm engaged," was the sharp, peremptory dismissal, and he perforce withdrew, postponing the declaration. As he passed the door, he struck the hour of his luncheon interval.

"I reckon Providence don't supply cheating clerks with thousand-dollar-bills," said he. "You divided the packet of 100 into two of 50, as you thought, but you counted the first backward, from 100 to 50 inclusive, and that left you only 49 of the second pack."

SEND NO MONEY... SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

Great Britain gave marked encouragement to our Philippine programme—a programme which, let it be noted, was made out by President McKinley virtually in secret, away from the knowledge or approval of our people.

"Tut, tut!" protested the elder Loring, with a fierce exhortation; but Bertha mischievously took up her brother's humor.

"The young wife looked up with a start of surprise. The fear that was written in her troubled face gave way to a flash of desperate hope. "It came to you?"

"One bill is missing." "Thank God, you can pass it!" No word of protest did he raise. He assumed his power and his willingness to save. She caught his receding hand across the table.

"Fact is, Edmond, that combination chatter of ours had got into my brain. I thought Wilton had pinched a bill, and I reckoned to do more for my brother than daddy would do for his little girl."

THE BURDICK... SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

Another fact not without significance is the time chosen by Mr. Chamberlain for forcing his dispute with the Transvaal to an issue. He did this at the moment when the bloody business in which we were engaged made serious remonstrance from us impossible.

"You've a fine chance now I've got into the counting division at the Treasury," said she. "Say, now, why not make up a family combination? You, Wilton, are cashier at the Ranchers', and you're constantly having old bills to send into the Treasury for redemption."

"I cannot, Edmond, I haven't the bill." "You did not steal it? Oh, forgive me! Heaven be thanked for that! It's an oversight, then? Bad enough, but not beyond repair. Make out your report at once and send it in. You are a novice. The delay and irregularity may be overlooked."

"For my sake—for your Bertha's sake—you will, you will!" Edmond Hackett raised his other hand to his damp forehead.

"Societies for the study of longevity will find an interesting subject in Mrs. Mary McDonald, a colored woman, of Philadelphia, now an occupant of the Home for the Aged and Infirm, who died on the 14th of November 14, 1770, is well authenticated."

AN EFFECTUAL EFFORT.

In view of a concatenation of events so peculiar, Mr. Chamberlain's allusion to an alliance or understanding, which, as he suggests, is more convenient and practicable than any written agreement existing between the two great English-speaking countries, needs some very satisfactory disclaimer from the administration if it is not to result in sowing a fresh crop of suspicions in not oversuspicious minds.

"Have done! Have done!" burst out the old man. "If I believed my son and my daughter and my daughter-in-law were capable of such a rogues' pad I'd fetch out my gun and fill you full of holes, every one!"

"I cannot do that, Edmond. It would cast suspicion upon the cashier who forwarded the bills to the Treasury." "That is his affair. If the packet was short when you counted it—"

"How not in your power? The packet will go from your hands to the cashier, and he will not count it again, and by it will be deposited in the macerator, to be ground into pulp. It will never be known that forty-nine instead of fifty bills had been counted."

"I see you're not a novice. The delay and irregularity may be overlooked. 'I cannot do that, Edmond. It would cast suspicion upon the cashier who forwarded the bills to the Treasury.' 'That is his affair. If the packet was short when you counted it—'"

SEND MONEY... SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

"So, as opportunity makes the thief, and we shall have no opportunity," added young Loring, "the whole three of us'll have to be honest, will we, or won't we?"

"Father, dear father!" she exclaimed, soothingly. "You know us all better than that, sure. We were just poking fun; weren't we, Edmond? Besides, such a combination as I figured out couldn't be, anyway."

"I have one of your packets here! I have only a portion of the bills. The upper section of your packet went to the Register's office to be counted there."

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"The Duke's Coolness. The coolness in action of great commanders like Marlborough, Wellington, John Nicholson and Stonewall Jackson has been worth whole battalions in the fighting line, says a writer in the Cornhill. Basil Jackson, who had frequent opportunities of seeing the 'Iron Duke' during the hours of the terrible Sunday, has recorded the interesting and characteristic fact that the only sign of nervousness that he remarked in him was that in a dangerous crisis he observed him moving slowly, as if he had a foot on a field glass which he carried, and of which he made such admirable use in this and his other campaigns. By the way, English telescopes of the time were far better than the French, and it was looked upon as a prize when one of them fell into their hands. In one of Wellington's battles against the French he was able to pierce the general's intentions by his gestures to an aide-de-camp, and accordingly took prompt measures to counteract his plans; and years afterward when they were both old men, he astonished the Marshal by telling him how he had defeated him."

50 YEARS' EXPERIENCE... TRADE MARKS DESIGNS... Scientific American.

"And, by the way, that kind of unwritten alliance which Mr. Chamberlain prefers, and which we should beware of—the kind we had with Aguinardo, for example—is exceedingly convenient, since, after gathering its fruits, it can be so cleverly repudiated; its very existence can be denied."

"Well, I reckon it's impossible in the last degree," said Edmond Hackett. "So, as opportunity makes the thief, and we shall have no opportunity," added young Loring, "the whole three of us'll have to be honest, will we, or won't we?"

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"A Use For Old Watch Cases. Many families have somewhere carefully laid away collections of old time watches which vary in style from the round, thick bull's-eye down to the flat, open-faced glock watch. The works of these watches are practically valueless and the cases would bring a trifling amount if sold for either old gold or silver. A better use would be to cling about the faithful timepieces and here is a way of bringing them into action once more as small pin-cushions for the bureau. The change is readily made. Have a silversmith take out the works and fill in the hole left by the thumb-piece. The round case is then drilled and is an admirable receptacle to hold the pin-cushion, which should be snugly fitted to it and made of a shade of velvet that matches the bureau trimmings. Gay colors are by far the most effective. Many of the old Dutch watches are fancifully engraved with ships and windmills, and these would make very nice pin-cushions well made up, they form attractive ornaments in a blue and white room."

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"Ireland and Boers. From the Philadelphia North American. The conduct of the reservists of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, who sang 'God Save Kruger' and threw away their rifles as they marched abroad the transport for South Africa at Cork, has naturally caused bitter resentment in England, but if Englishmen are wise it will also cause thought. England's dealings with Ireland have been based on naked force. The English have not shown that they value the voluntary, heartfelt loyalty of the Irish people, and of course they have not had it. They are learning now that the time may come when undiluted force as a cement of empire may have its defects. These are times when good will have a certain value."

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"A Photographic Feat. Probably the longest solar spectrum achieved at a single operation is one taken by Sir Norman Lockyer, showing the lock spectrum of iron, with a comparison spectrum of the sun thirty inches long. This was taken with a spectrogonia or Rowland grating which Sir Norman had used for solar spectroscopic photographs; but, owing to the focal plane of this grating being considerably curved it is impossible to get a sharp photograph of the entire spectrum on a glass plate as only about eighteen or twenty inches of the spectrum can be brought into focus on the same plane."

\$1.98 UVS A \$3.50 SUIT... SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

"Perhaps the same lesson may be repeated in South Africa. Suppose the Dutch conquered and the whole country from Zambesi to the Cape were converted into a new Ireland, what will happen in some national crisis when every part of the empire must put forth its own power of resistance to a foreign enemy or cease to be British? Will bloody victories now pay for their cost then, or will England wish that her destinies had not been committed in 1899 to the keeping of a man in a hurry?"

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