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W. F. LAMEY, Editor and Publisher

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Thackeray the Man.

We have insisted and we have cried with Thackeray, the thinker of souls and the creator of heroes. His features have been made familiar in magazines and on the frontispieces of his books. But a vivid idea of a man and his manner must come from personal contact or in default of that through the eyes of a capable delineator.

In a new biographical of Thackeray documents and papers, edited by General J. G. Wilson, the poet Dryant is drawn upon for a picture of the man Thackeray at the time of his visit to America in 1855. Writing of Thackeray before a lecture audience, Mr. Bryant said;

Every one who saw Mr. Thackeray last evening must have been struck by the contrast between his appearance and manner of the preceding night. He was then pale, sad, and looked, I fear, eighty-six feet four at least—he seemed so old a person. We hoped that we have kept silvery record over fifty years. And then there was a look in the countenance of many that there must be something wrong with the man. Last night he appeared in the costume was perfect plain, the expression of his countenance was great, his address perfectly unaffected and such as we might expect from a man of a well bred man accustomed to good society.

The most striking feature in his manner was the utter absence of all exaltation of my kind. He did not permit himself to appear conscious that he was an object of curiosity to a large audience and he gave the impression of the greatest sense of but appearing before us. We felt we were interested in him for some other words, he inspired his audience with respect for him as a man of genius, and with the admiration which his books have inspired him as an author.

It was the fashion then in England to satirize everything American, and Thackeray was expected on his return to join the howling throng. But he persistently refused to do so and soon after his return wrote to his friend, William B. Reed, of Philadelphia:

How I like your people and want to see them again! You see I am a Republican and democrat and want to know people who keep on telling this to one another here and have so bothered your country with praise in private that I sometimes think I have gone too far. I feel bad some of the truth, but the great point I want to bring into the eyes of my fellow-Saxons, virtue proud English public is that they are fellow-Saxons they do Americans.

Thackeray was urged to publish his impressions of America, but he said that he would not do it for money, and to do it without pay he thought might bring his motives into question.

Lord "Bobs" and the Common People.

England is not yet done whimpering over the way the finer brothers licked Tommy Atkins the first year of the South African war. Lord Roberts now prize Kipling and other humiliated jingoes in the scheme to turn Tommy Atkins into a training camp for teaching the common people to "shoot straight and carry out simple orders."

It might be cheaper and certainly would be more economical to the kind of spirit that makes fighting men. Ape knock down the barriers and let the people have a chance to shoot at real game in the vast forests now reserved for the English nobility. Lord "Bobs" must surely remember that his Canadians and Australians could shoot as straight as the Boers. There is never any trouble in getting men to fight when there is something worth fighting for, but just why Great Britain's "Hodges" and "Pete" and "Sandy" should be expected to risk their lives for the glory of the union jack is a puzzle to outsiders.

Lord Roberts also wants in immense reserve of trained officers. It might be well to try the plan of abolishing commission by purchase and give the common people a chance to war shoulder straps. Soldiers who can win battles by shooting straight and obeying orders might have some men among them capable of taking the lead. Besides, Kipling's uncommissioned officers are said to have no superiority like rank in the world, so there can be no lack of material for promotion.

RUSSIAN CLAMOR FOR WORK

Editor Turkevitch says Rev. Gapton and Gorgon are Responsible for Trouble.

Rev. Father Gapton and Gorgon, the priest of the Russian Orthodox church in Bridgeport, Conn., and the editor of Slet (Light), a prominent Russian paper in the United States, who recently returned from a three months visit to Russia, are responsible for the disturbances there, says the New York Tribune.

The people of Russia, the present time, do not want a revolution or a constitution. They do not know the meaning of revolution or constitution.

"Let me explain, so far as I am able, the situation relative to the working classes. The country districts about St. Petersburg—in fact, about any large city—are very densely populated. There is little land to work as it is, and what soil has been worked is worked out. The people are unable to make a living and consequently flock to the cities and towns to the cities. Here they are willing to work for almost nothing—enough to eat. But with this great influx of labor comes disturbing conditions. There is no work for them, and there are a great many hands to do it. The capitalists are therefore able to hire labor very cheaply, and the more time they have given a great number without work. The supply for all needs the demand. Of course there is a great clamoring for work and for higher wages and shorter hours, similar to the demand in America.

"Into this belief that this priest, Gapton, and editor Gorgon, and Rev. Father Gapon have similarly brought these people to believe that the troubles they draw up was along these lines. They took advantage to institute in it their own revolutionary ideas and have made the people unwilling aids and puppets, unbeknown to themselves.

"I do not believe that these disturbances will have any effect upon the feeling the war with Japan. I am confident that the soldiers will blame the people for the trouble. They have the line that force is necessary to subdue a lawless mob but by patient and firm measures. In fact, the army has known of the disturbances of the working people for some time, and they have had no effect. There is no talk among the officers of revolution. I give you my word that the people, the masses of Russia, do not want a revolution. They do not want a constitution, but they do want work and they have to go to work for them what is there to do?

"I believe that this trouble has been a simmering along for some time, and the utmost secrecy. These agitators have been insinuating the minds of the people. They have given the note to understand that the people New York by the dozen and the Japanese dollars, says the Philadelphia Ledger and Tribune's New York correspondent. Mrs. Hoyt, who has just been embezzled in silver, diamonds and jewelry, said that the gems were being received a Spanish girl in custom dressed in the style of gaiters. After all the guests had arrived Mrs. Hoyt led the way up the morning stairs to the second floor, where, at the head of the stairs, they entered a room where Mrs. Hoyt's son, with many birds-singing. Long, carved mahogany and gilt-edged stains decorated the tables on which the supper was served while the entertainment went on. Electric lights were arranged in clusters through the room, and in the corners of the room birds were in cages concealed behind shrubbery.

Sandstorm.

Mrs. Hoyt—You say that you have two thousand?

Mrs. Sty—Yes; the one I thought I saw in the room and the one I got—Detroit Free Press.

DINNER TABLE NOVELTY.

British Millionaire's Railway Train For Passing Around Dinner Table.

When Andrew Carnegie was a guest at a wealth dinner and long ago satisfied the appetite and implemented and implements of his works were utilized during the service of the meal both as practical aids and as appropriate ornaments.

England has added a new feature to social dinner table appointments unknown in America, says the London Express. An English firm built a small train specially for a millionaire, with a fully around decanters and glasses after dinner.

The little engine, over which two Cupids in Roman costume, is constructed of silver plated copper in miniature representations of a Great Western locomotive. The tender is loaded with coal from the millionaire's own coal mines.

When the millionaire touches a button the train starts. It runs quite slowly round the track, and when a guest is in the dinner the current is broken, and the train stops to be replaced. The total length of the train, which is driven by electricity, is more than five feet, and the track is constructed for a twenty foot table.

The Little Partner's Answer.

"Little father, we are starving! May we go to the fair?"

By the cattle gates the soldiers paced with sabres bare.

"Little father, can't you hear us?" cried they in despair.

Palace doors were barred, and have barred—in the dark.

"Little father, you must answer!" the starving peasants cried.

Men lay dying in the gutters when the sun rose in pride.

Through long ages they had striven, through long years they had suffered, India darkened world and jealous they had fled.

But they pointed to the heavens, saying, "Little father, we are starving!"

And they humbly raised their crosses as they knelt.

"Little father, we are starving! Give us fair hope and dear."

"When we ask, the little father he will kindly hear."

So they sang and prayed and struggled! Often rebels came

To stripes they were humbly and to the stakes.

But they stood their heads and answered: "Little father, we are starving! Send us food!"

Then the soldiers rode upon them, pitiless, with steel.

Then the little father answered when they cried:

"Little father, we are starving!"—G. E. Kobar in Chicago Record-Herald.

Speech Restored by Cold.

A miraculous cure has recently been effected by the cold weather at Pauillaguet, Auvergne, in France, says the Paris correspondent of the London Chronicle. John Rougier, fifty-four years of age, an agricultural laborer, lost his speech in 1887 after a severe attack of typhoid fever. At this time he was a strong man, vigorous and healthy, was compelled to resign his position and seek other work. A few days ago, going to work as usual, he was suddenly seized with faintness owing to the extreme cold and would have been frozen to death had not some passersby come to his assistance and restored him to consciousness. It was then found, to the great surprise of everyone, that he had regained his power of speech. The doctors of the district have forwarded a report of this extraordinary case to the faculty in Paris.

A Water Observation Boat.

Captain J. Lassen, a sailor on the great lakes, recently patented patents on a new form of pleasure boat, says the Scientific American. The boat is supplied with a glass bottom, and under the bottom is an electric light, which will illuminate the water and the bed of the stream for some distance around. A hooded reflector makes it possible to sit comfortably in the boat and examine the curious things in the water below with ease. Seats and pillows may be taken also by means of a trap door. Captain Lassen has in his possession a number of photographs which show the curious things he has seen and he will be quite satisfactory. The boat which Lassen has made when the water was clouded with dirt washed down into it.

Long Span For a Bridge.

A novel structure has been under construction across the St. Lawrence at Quebec. It contains a longer span than any bridge yet planned. The bridge consists of two approach spans of 210 feet each and a cross arm each 500 feet in length, and a great central span 1,600 feet in length.

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