Historic Blackguards

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Titus Oates, Conspiracy Inventor

TITUS OATES

THIS is the story of a liar whose lies caused the death of many innocent people and convulsed a whole kingdom. He was a shrivel-faced, oily fellow, Titus Oates by name. Oates was the son of an English weaver. He began life as a Baptist clergyman, was driven out of his church for perjury and became a chaplain in the British navy. He was dismissed from this service for gross misconduct and went to study for the priesthood in a Jesuit college. Here he was found to be vicious, hypocritical and worthless, and was expelled in disgrace. Thus in 1678, at the age of fifty-nine, he was cast upon the world to pick up a living by his wits. Already he had been branded as a blackguard, but now his real career of deadly mischief was beginning.

Hating the Jesuits for their just condemnation of him, he went to Charles II., king of England, and invented a story of a Jesuit plot to murder the king and to start a general massacre. His tale was an absolute lie from first to last, and it was so awkwardly devised that the king in a few careless questions exposed it as not only false but utterly absurd.

Oates was not discouraged. Failing to convince Charles of the falsehood, he went before a magistrate named Godfrey and publicly took oath that his charges were true. The government and the people at large seemed to forget that Oates had already been convicted of perjury and that his whole life was that of a man whose word was not to be credited. Panic struck statesmen and populace alike. They believed their king's life was really threatened. No proofs to the contrary nor appeals to their sanity could check this belief. The nation was made with excitement. Charles alone—the supposed plot's intended victim—remained calm and laughed at the entire affair as a hoax.

Nearly 2,000 innocent persons were arrested on Oates' false testimony as members of the conspiracy. Brave, honest, loyal Englishmen were tried and unjustly put to death on the same ridiculous charge. A reign of terror set in. No one's life seemed safe when a convicted perjurer could swear it away. Plain citizens and high nobles alike swelled the ranks of victims. Oates received a large income from the government and had a suite of rooms in the palace.

Then, as the turmoil began to die down, Oates tried to revive it, by the most atrocious charge of all. He accused the queen—a meek, pious, gentle little woman whom her husband had neglected and ill-treated—of conspiring to poison King Charles. The public once more howled with fury. Parliament tried to force the queen to leave court. Charles had the decency to put a stop to this tale by declaring his wife innocent.

Later, when Charles II. died and his brother, James II., came to the throne, Oates was convicted of perjury. A strange sentence was passed upon him. For state reasons it was deemed best not to execute this "conspiracy inventor" who had caused so many better men to die. Instead, it was decided to put him to death in another fashion. He was sentenced to pay a heavy fine, then to be clapped into the pillory (a rude wooden contrivance in which a captive's head and hands were fastened, while he was kept standing for hours exposed to public view), to receive a whipping, and then to be imprisoned for life, being taken from his cell five times a year to be pilloried again. As Oates was sixty-five years old, it was thought the terrific beating would kill him.

But he was tough. He received 1,700 lashes of the whip and was so mangled that he had to be dragged back to prison on a sledge. In spite of this treatment he recovered.

Three years later, in 1688, when James II. was deposed and William of Orange became king of England, one of William's earliest acts was to pardon Oates and to give him a royal pension of $1,500 a year.

It is hard to understand how any monarch, in the light of Oates' crimes, could have issued such pardon and pension. Yet the fact remains. The old perjurer lived on in comfort (vainly trying to stir up new plots now and then) for the next 17 years, dying in 1705 at the age of eighty-six.

Blackbeard, Pirate "for Revenue Only"

BLACKBEARD

IN a Virginia family a gruesome heirloom is still cherished. It is a huge drinking cup, barred with silver and resting on a silver base. The cup itself is made of a polished human skull. The skull of Blackbeard, the pirate. Nor was Blackbeard's head less fantastic in life than it is in death. He wore an immense beard, jet black, braided and tied into a dozen fantastic strands. And each strand was fastened with a gaudy ribbon. To add to his ferociously ludicrous appearance he had all his teeth blackened and filed to a sharp point. But though in dress and shape he looked like a comic opera brigand, there the comic opera element ended. He was a shrewd business man—a pirate "for revenue only."

Blackbeard's real name was Edward Teach (or "Thatch"). He was born in England in the last part of the seventeenth century, and is said to have shipped as a youth aboard a privateer vessel bound for the West Indies during the war of the "Spanish Succession." Privateering in those days was not very different from piracy. It was almost as profitable and it had the advantage of being strictly legal.

The blackguard with the fewest scruples, least conscience and greatest store of brutal courage, craftiness and ferocity was certain of quick promotion among the sea rangers—unless he was first killed. And Blackbeard had all these qualities. He had also a daredevil manner, which (coupled with his odd dress and odder face) led many people to believe him insane. But he seems never to have been too roaring crazy to keep an eye on every "business" chance that came his way.

In 1713 peace was declared and the privateers found themselves out of work. This did not trouble Blackbeard. From privateering to piracy was the shortest kind of step. He turned pirate. For a year or so nothing was heard from him by the outside world. But in 1718 he all at once became infamous. Blackbeard had his armed sloop, Queen Anne's Revenge (at the head of a murderous crew that feared nothing but himself) he began ravaging the Spanish Main.

Then, leaving that happy hunting ground in the freebooter drift, Blackbeard headed northward and scoured the Virginia and Carolina coasts, fighting, capturing, pillaging, burning. For two years he kept this up, eluding capture and making his name a terror to planters and colonies alike.

Then, in June, 1718, Queen Anne's Revenge was wrecked off the North Carolina coast. Blackbeard, tired of fighting on land or waiting to be captured, surrendered himself and 30 of his best men to Gov. Charles Eden of North Carolina. The pirate, in spite of his eccentricities, was a shrewd judge of human nature. He had good reason to know what manner of man Eden was. He went to the governor, secured from him a royal pardon and calmly proposed a business partnership. It was arranged between them that Blackbeard was to go back to his pleasant piratical labors and that Eden (in return for a fair percentage of the plunder) should protect him from legal interference.

This was a safe and profitable arrangement for both. For a few months it prospered finely. But such a state of affairs aroused sharp comment from the planters on whose rich estates Blackbeard was now levying a heavy toll. One local legislator, Edward Moseley, complained publicly that while Eden could easily raise an armed force to arrest honest men, he did not seem able to do anything toward capturing Blackbeard. Eden punished this plain speech by fining Moseley $500 and by prohibiting him from holding office for three years.

But the people's discontent could not be so easily silenced. The colonists, unable to stir their own governor into action, appealed to Gov. Spotswood of Virginia. Spotswood was a very different sort from the profit-loving Eden. He promptly fitted up two ships and, with Lieut. Robert Maynard in command, send them against the pirates.

The Virginian force found Blackbeard in Pamlico bay on November 18, 1718. A fierce battle ensued. Blackbeard knew what defeat would mean to him, so he ordered one of his men to stand by the powder magazine with a lighted match and to blow up friends and enemies alike at a signal from him. But the signal was not given. For in the thick of the turmoil Blackbeard and Maynard met on deck in a hand-to-hand fight. It was a duel whose fame lived long in Virginia—this deadly sword clash between a dapper young officer and a giant pirate. At length skill in swordsmanship prevailed against mere savage strength, and a blow of Maynard's cutlass stretched Blackbeard dead on his own deck. The career of America's most picturesque sea rover was at an end. The survivors of the crew surrendered. Thirteen of them were hanged. And coast dwellers and mariners alike breathed easier.

A Doubtful Compliment.

Miss Pretty—I don't see how you whistle through your pouting lips in that way. I could never do it, I'm sure.

Mr. Goodheart (wishing to compliment her delicate little hands)—No, Miss Pretty, if you were to try it your whole hand would slip into your mouth.

MITCHELL TO JAIL

VICE-PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION OF LABOR IS SENTENCED BY JUDGE WRIGHT.

NINE MONTHS IN PRISON

Gompers and Morrison Have Already Been Disposed Of in Contempt Cases and Have Appealed to the District Court of Appeals.

Washington, July 25.—In the District of Columbia supreme court Tuesday John Mitchell, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for contempt of court growing out of the Bucks Stove and Range company case.

An appeal was taken and $4,000 bail furnished.

In the same case President Samuel Gompers recently was sentenced to one year and Secretary Frank Morrison to six months' imprisonment.

The three labor men were accused of having published a boycott after the District of Columbia supreme court had issued an order against it.

Once before they were sentenced for contempt on another count in the same case and the United States Supreme court reversed the finding of the district judge. The antagonism between union labor and the Bucks Stove and Range company has disappeared since the death of Robert A. Van Cleve, president of the stove company, who led a bitter war on unions for a number of years.

Mr. Mitchell was not in court, but sent a written statement waiving his right to be present. He was to have been sentenced last week, but Justice Wright then declined to pass sentence because he objected to the form of waiver submitted for Mr. Mitchell.

Some time ago Mitchell declined to give to Judge Wright of the district supreme court any assurance that he expected "hereafter to lend adherence to the decrees of the judicial tribunals of the land."

To do so, he declared, would be an admission that he had heretofore failed to comply with lawful decrees. Mr. Mitchell said he had rather be convicted of contempt than be acquitted on any other ground than the facts in the case.

HIT RAILWAY AND EMPLOYES

Coroner's Jury Finds Burlington Road, Engineers, Tower Woman, Flagman and Speed Mania Cause.

Chicago, July 25.—The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, its employes and the public demand for fast travel were blamed for the death of 13 persons in the wreck near Western Springs in the verdict of the coroner's jury rendered here Tuesday.

The jury did not recommend the holding of any person to the grand jury for criminal action.

Points in the verdict follow:

The public demands the rapid transportation of trains.

If Mrs. Julia W. Wilcox, tower woman at Western Springs, had not held train No. 4 unnecessarily, she would not have had to do likewise with No. 1, into which train No. 8 crashed. She used bad judgment in not attempting to hold No. 8 at Hinsdale.

Men operators only should be employed in signal towers. Distance signals should be installed at all signal points.

If the engineers of the two trains in the wreck had not disregarded the signals the wreck would not have occurred.

Clarence Woodworth, the flagman, failed to do his full duty in not going back a full distance as he could have done in the time at his command.

Ellis H. Bronson, dead engineer of No. 8, was running his train at high speed through a fog and also ran past the block signal. After he heard the torpedo he did his full duty in attempting to stop the train.

REPORT POST OFFICE BILL

Measure Carries Appropriation of $232,000,000 — Shackleford Good Roads Provision is Stricken Out.

Washington, July 25.—The post office appropriation bill carrying $232,000,000, was reported to the senate Tuesday. The principal feature of the bill is a provision establishing a parcels post on the rural system.

The Shackleford good roads provision which was added in the house bill is stricken out of the senate measure and a substitute is provided embodying the creation of a joint committee to make a study of the good roads question and report to congress.

Makes New World's Record.

New York, July 25.—A new world's record for one mile was made at the stadium motordrome at Brighton Beach Tuesday when Arthur Chapple of New York rode the distance in the remarkable time of 29 1-5 seconds.

Injured in Train Wreck.

Dayton, Ky., July 25.—Fireman Harry Schaefer was fatally scalded, Engineer Gregory was internally injured and a woman had her ear bitten off, as a result of a wreck Tuesday on the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad.

Member of Mabray Gang Dead.

San Jose, Cal., July 25.—Frank R. Brown, member of the notorious Mabray gang of swindlers, arrested in this city two years ago, and at liberty on bail, was found dead in his apartment here Tuesday.

METHOD OF SERVING DESSERT

Various Little Arrangements That Add Greatly to the Enjoyment of the Partakers.

Almost everything in the dessert menu is either arranged on flat round platters or else served individually in tall stemmed glasses. Jellies, if placed on round platters, can be garnished fancifully with whipped cream that has been run through the pastry tube to make rosettes. Ice cream can be moulded and repacked and then dished up on flat platters and prettily garnished with whipped cream and maraschino cherries or tiny bits of angelica. Even with all this garnishing there is ample room for the handsome serving spoon and fork to be placed on the sides of these platters. Maids carry these dishes with napkins over their right hands, the latter being placed flat underneath. They are passed to the left of each person to be served. There is even a graceful way for a maid to stand. As she stoops a little to offer her dish with her right hand she places her left hand close to her side and slightly behind her and turns her face away from the person whom she is serving.

Some women prefer serving a dessert course in stemmed glasses. If so, the cook dishes up soft custard with some sort of a whip on top, or ice cream to be made more delicious with a sauce, and sends these glasses to the pantry. They are placed by the second maid on dessert plates on which there are doilies. She then goes to the sideboard in the dining room, where she has previously laid out her fingerbowls on doilies and plates, takes one in each hand and proceeds to lay them down in front of each member of the family. As each one is removing the bowl, doily and silver the waitress has returned to the pantry, taken one plate with stemmed glass in her right hand and returned to the hostess, where she takes up the unused (or place) plate with her left hand and puts down her dessert. She proceeds to serve all the members at table with this exchange of plates.

Kitchennettes.

If you wish to beat an egg very light, beat the white first to a froth, then add the yolk and beat.

In thickening gravies or sauce, try an egg beater to get out the lumps of thickening. The sauce or gravy will be as smoot has can be and will not need to be strained. Another way: If you are making milk toast or anything similar, put the thickening into the cold milk and stir constantly till done. It will be so smooth and free from lumps that you will feel well paid for a few moments' extra time. It does not take much longer.

To keep the zinc tray of a gas stove bright and clean, rub with bemzine, then wash with soap and pulverized pumice. It will look like new. If spots are stubborn use a little kerosene.

Veal Croquettes.

Three level tablespoonfuls butter, three level tablespoonfuls flour, one fourth level teaspoonful salt, one-eighth level teaspoon pepper, three-fourths cup hot milk, few drops onion juice, one egg slightly beaten, two cups finely chopped cold meat will be needed for this recipe.

Melt the butter, add the flour, salt and pepper, and when blended add the hot milk gradually. Stir until thick and smooth. Add the meat, mix well and add the onion juice, egg and more salt and pepper if necessary. When cold, shape into croquettes and fry in deep fat.

Time-Saving Suggestion.

When the weekly wash comes up from the laundry, take the clothes that need mending and find patches of the material, yarn to darn with, or whatever is necessary to mend with, and pin the pieces to the article to be mended, then put them aside in a drawer or sewing bag until you have time to sit down quietly and sew. Having everything ready, you will be surprised at the amount you can do at one sitting. By this method the weekly mending loses half its terrors for the busy housekeeper.

Red Currant Cordial.

To two quarts of red currants put one quart of whisky; let it stand 24 hours, then bruise and strain through a flannel bag. To every two quarts of this liquor add one pound loaf sugar; add quarter of a pound of ginger, well bruised and boiled; let the whole stand to settle; then strain or filter, bottle and cork; seal the corks tightly. It is an improvement to have half red raspberry juice if the flavor is liked. The above is ready to use in one month after made.

Raisin Drops.

These are very nice to serve with afternoon tea and keep indefinitely: Three eggs, one cup butter, one and one-half cups sugar, four cups flour, one cup raisins, four teaspoons cinnamon. Mix the cinnamon with the flour and beat into the creamed butter. Beat sugar with eggs, and then all together, as little as possible. Drop by teaspoonful in rough cakes, a little apart.

Trunk Linings.

Large bags of lavender in the compartment of trunks that must stand for any length of time, sweeten wonderfully the air that is so apt to grow musty. If trunk linings are slightly scented in this way dresses and under wear are more delightly fragrant at the end of the journey than when one folds a sachet among the garments themselves.

NEWS OF ILLINOIS

Chicago.—James J. Ragan, St. Paul, Minn., was unanimously re-elected president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Prof. Michael O. Rohan, national chairman of Irish history committee, made known a peculiar fact.

"It is a strange fact," said Professor Rohan, "that in the schools in Milwaukee the teaching of the Gaelic history appeals to others than the Irish. Two prizes offered for the best essay on Daniel O'Connell were carried away by a Polish girl and a German girl. The first prize was won by Mary Celocowschi and the second by Marie Schneider.

Bloomington.—Mussel seekers at work in the rivers of central Illinois report several valuable finds of pearls. John Sleck of Beardstown found a pearl weighing 100 grains, which is said to be worth $3,000. John Maloney of Jefferson found a pearl in Rock river which he values at $3,000. Frank Linn of Avery'ville discovered a pearl for which a professional buyer paid him $400. Bernard Palmer, also of Avery'ville, located a pearl which he valued at $300.

Greenville.—A good roads convention will be held here Thursday, August 15, in connection with the country-wide movement for a great national highway. The chief speaker will be Jesse L. Taylor of Jamestown, O., who has made a study of the good roads proposition. Another speaker will be Homer L. Tice, a member of the Illinois legislature. The program partially agreed upon provides for an elaborate course of entertainment for the hundreds of visitors expected.

Bloomington.—That it pays to advertise will be vouched for by Edward Supher, a machinist of Chicago Heights. He placed an advertisement in a matrimonial paper, stating that he sought a wife. Miss Laura Nichols of Mount Sterling was among those who replied. The pair corresponded for two years and this week, meeting for the first time, were married.

Springfield.—Members of the state primary canvassing board issued a certificate of nomination to Charles W. Middlekauff, Republican candidate for state senator from the Twelfth senatorial district. He resides at Lanark. The state board took this action pursuant to a decree of the Carroll county circuit court, which gave the nomination to Middlekauff, who, the court found, had defeated Alva Wingert by a majority of 30 votes.

Springfield.—This city has authority to pass ordinances to compel the closing of barber shops and meat markets on Sunday, according to two opinions handed down in the circuit court by Judge James A. Creighton. Action had been brought against John C. Stewart, a barber, and William R. Richter, a butcher, for violation of the city ordinance. The $10 fine against each was upheld. Appeals will be filed.

Centralia.—A double funeral was held here when Kasper Meier and Henry Reuter, two lifelong friends, were laid at rest. The former was sixty-six years of age and the latter sixty-five years old. They had passed the greater part of their lives together, and their deaths occurred at almost the same hour.

Champaign.—William B. McKinley of Champaign, congressman and traction magnate, gave $5,000 to the Urbana board of education for the purchase of ground for an athletic field for high school pupils. He previously had made a similar donation in Champaign. Two and a half acres will be purchased adjoining the new $75,000 high school building in Urbana.

Chicago.—Testimony was given before Master of Chancery Morrisson in the hearing of the injunction suit against the Chicago butter and egg board that a week ago on the Elgin board of trade the Chicago interests succeeded in setting the price of butter at 25 cents a pound when butter was selling on the street at 26½ cents a pound.

Decatur.—Rev. Henry Scott, pastor of the First Congregational church, surprised his congregation when he asked all of the men to stand up. When they complied, he requested them to remove their coats in order to be comfortable during the hot weather. Every man was agreeable and the innovation will be permanent.

Carmi.—Duplicating his trick of seventeen years ago, George Boseker, held in White county jail on a larceny charge, sawed through his cell and escaped. Seventeen years ago he sawed through the same cell.

Peoria.—Modern Woodmen of America camps cannot take money from their general fund and use it in the fight against the proposed rate increase, even though a majority of the members of any camp are "insurgents," according to a ruling made by Lisette D. Futernaugh, in the circuit court, when he issued an injunction prayed for by a "stand-pat" member of Baker camp here in Peoria. The camp by an overwhelming vote decided a few days ago to take the general fund money and use it in a fight on the increase of rates.

SPLENDID OUTLOOK FOR CROPS IN WESTERN CANADA

RELIABLE INFORMATION FROM THE GRAIN FIELDS SHOW THAT THE PROSPECTS ARE GOOD.

This is the time of year when considerable anxiety is felt in all the northern agricultural districts as to the probable outcome of the growing crops. Central Canada, comprising the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, with their 16,000,000 acres of wheat, oats, barley and flax, of which 6,000,000 acres may be said to be sown to wheat alone, has become a great factor in the grain markets of the world. Besides this, government returns show that every state in the Union has representatives in these provinces, and naturally the friends of these representatives are anxious to hear of their success. It has never been said of that country that it is absolutely faultless. There are, and have been, districts that have experienced the vagaries of the weather, the same as in districts south of the boundary line between the two countries, but these are only such as are to be expected in any agricultural country. The past has proven that the agricultural possibilities of this portion of Canada are probably more attractive in every way than most countries where grain raising is the chief industry. The present year promises to be even better than past years, and in a month or six weeks it is felt there will be produced the evidence that warrants the enthusiasm of the present. Then these great broad acres will have the ripened wheat, oats, barley and flax, and the farmer, who has been looking forward to making his last payment on his big farm will be satisfied. At the time of writing, all crops give the promise of reaching the most sanguine expectations.

In the central portion of Alberta, it is said that crop conditions are more favorable than in any previous year. Heavy rains recently visited this part, and the whole of this grain growing section has been covered. Reports like the following come from all parts:

"Splendid heavy rain yesterday. Crops forging ahead. Great prospects. All grains more than a week ahead of last year. Weather warm last week. Good rains last night."

From southern Alberta the reports to hand indicate sufficient rain. Crops in excellent condition. Labor scarce.

Throughout Saskatchewan all grains are looking well, and there has been sufficient rain to carry them through to harvest.

From all portions of Manitoba there comes an assurance of an abundant yield of all grains. Throughout southern Manitoba, where rain was needed a few weeks ago, there has lately been abundant precipitation, and that portion of the province will, in all probability have a crop to equal the best anticipations. A large quantity of grain was sown on the stubble in the newer west, which is never a satisfactory method of farming, and may reduce the general average.

Taken altogether, the country is now fully two weeks in advance of last year, and in all grains the acreages sown are much larger than in 1911. This means that with auspicious weather the west will have the grandest harvest in its history. Two hundred and fifty million bushels of wheat has been mentioned as an estimate of the present growing crop, and it looks now as if that guess will be none too large.

Salt.

First Suffragette—If we want to get the young girls interested in our meetings we must have something to attract them.

Second Suffragette—Which would it better be—refreshments or men?—Life.

According to an old bachelor, real luck in love consists of being able to avoid facing the person.

Don't Persecute Your Bowels

Cast out cathartics and purgatives. They are brutal, harsh, unnecessary.

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SOUTH GEORGIA

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