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R. Z. Egerton

A BATTLE ROYAL

Issue Fight For the Championship of the Wilderness.

An hour, it seemed, the two moose had battled, neither appearing to gain a point of advantage. Their sides showed red gashes from the savage ripping of horn points. Their eyes were reddened, and there was crimson in the flecks of froth that flew from their nostrils. The bog was churned into a black slough of muck beneath them. The first streaks of dawn were showing when—was it fate, luck or the better strategy of the newcomer?—the advantage of position was taken from Bilhorn's stag.

Now the newcomer could stand off a locomotive. He could even recover a measure of his wind, while his opponent must continue to weaken. And the effect soon told. Suddenly he seemed to gather himself together and bring all his great force of bone and muscle into one grand, herculean effort, and Bilhorn's bull slipped backward. His adversary was actually forcing bog and all back with him, the spongy mass soughing up behind his helpless haunches. This was a dangerous turn in the fray. He realized it and struggled to gain a stay somewhere, anywhere, but there was nothing to hold to. Back, back, he settled on his haunches until he was driven squarely over on his broad side, hopelessly out of action, terribly at the mercy of his foe, who horned him brutally again and again until sheer lack of breath forced him to draw back for an instant.

Up from the reddened slough the vanquished beast staggered, a fearful spectacle. Not an instant did he falter, but, with his dark life-blood pouring from his sides, drove straight at his enemy again. The rest is soon told. As the dying stag came on blindly he stumbled and fell squarely on the lowered antlers of his conqueror. Viciously the standing bull strove to extricate his horns from beneath the heavy body of his victim, but he was pinned fast.

Then came the spectacular finish of this battle, worthy of the most exacting Roman arena. Slowly but surely the victor began to lift the huge form of the fallen stag until with one mighty upward sweep he hurled it fairly over his back, where it struck on the rock with a sickening thud and fell at its base, a quivering, shapeless mass of mangled flesh and bone. The victor wheeled and gazed for a moment at the quiet form.

To the trembling, panting figure of the man on the rock he paid no heed. Satisfied that his adversary would trouble him no more, he turned and with heavy swinging strides went back into the swamp from which he had come. Thus fell the king of the Allagash, not from any cunning or craft of puny man, but in a battle royal, worthy of the Spartan kings, waged with a foe deserving of his blade, in defense of his crown and realm.—*Outing Magazine.*

Peace on Earth.

Have you ever thought seriously of the meaning of that blessing given to the peacemakers? People are always expecting to get peace in heaven. But you know whatever peace they get there will be ready made. Whatever making of peace they can be blessed for must be on the earth here, not the taking of arms against, but the building of nests amid its "sea of troubles," like the halcyons. Difficult enough, you think. Perhaps so, but I do not see that any of us try. We complain of the want of many things—we want votes, we want liberty, we want amusement, we want money. Which of us feels or knows that he wants peace?—*John Ruskin.*

The Way of the Wind.

The velocity of the winds is as follows:
Gentle wind (a breeze) traverses 10 feet a second.
Moderate (an easy gale), 16 feet a second.
Violent (a squall), 35 feet a second.
Storm, slight, 43 feet a second; considerable, 49 feet a second; violent, 54 feet a second.
Hurricane, of the temperate zones, 60 feet a second; of the torrid zones, 120 feet to 350 feet a second.

The Strength of Shellfish.

A limpet may appear a poor flabby creature and yet he can pull 1,984 times his own weight in the air and nearly double that in water. The Mediterranean cockle can exert a pull equivalent to 2,071 times his weight. The force required to open an oyster shell is 1,319 times the weight of the oyster without his shell. Were an average man as strong in proportion to his weight he would be able to lift 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 pounds!—*London Answers.*

YEGGMEN SERVE "SOUP."

Its Queer Recipe Is In Possession of the Secret Service.

Here is a recipe for soup served only after nightfall, preferably in the early morning hours.

"First take about ten or a dozen impwri hz xug, crumble it up fine and put it in a pan or washbowl, then pour over it enough uswhohs (either chhx or laky) to cover it well. Stir it up with your hands, being careful to break all the lumps; leave it set a few minutes; then get a few yards of cheesecloth and tear it in pieces and strain the mixture through the cloth into another vessel, wring the sawdust dry and throw it away. The remains will be the lhal ugx uswhohs mixed. Next take the same amount of water as you used of uswhohs and pour it in; leave the whole set for a few minutes."

This is the "soup" employed by yeggmens, and a single portion of it is guaranteed to open the door of the stoutest safe, provided an aperture can be made sufficiently large to pour in the stuff. The names of the ingredients are written in a crude sort of cipher commonly used for preserving such secrets. This and dozens more of the same transparency of meaning are in the possession of the United States secret service men, the police, detective agencies and others who deal with the cooks of such dishes. By a substitution of letter for letter—the first six for the last six of the alphabet, the second six for the third six, with G and N taken out of turn and made interchangeable—the cipher is easily read. "Impwri hz xug," translated, is "sticks of dynamite." "Uswhohs, either chhx or laky"—alcohol, either wood or pure—may be used.

The directions for serving this soup require considerable attention and the best of trained service. After the "gay cat," or advance agent of the band, has learned all that can be found out about the bank, store or post-office, its lighting, protection and the means of escape by freight train, vehicle or on foot, his companion or companions come on, avoiding notice as far as possible. "Stickups," or look-outs, guard the place while the "inside men" break into the safe. Sealing the cracks about the safe or vault door with soap, the yeggmens pour in the soup through a small hole left open at the top. The liquid flows down by locks, hinges and bolts and is set off by fuse or detonator. Blankets and covers of any kind are used to muffle the sound of the explosion and the fall of the door. Perhaps the "stickups" are forced to create a diversion outside and to frighten the citizens or mislead them while the "inside men" pick out the valuable papers escape. Who pays the check for the soup then depends upon the ingenuity of detectives.—*New York Post.*

EYE STRAIN.

It Has Many Symptoms and May Affect the Whole System.

Chief among the symptoms of eye strain are watering of the eye, a giting together of the eyelids on awaking in the morning, headache, the position and character of which vary with each individual. It may be neuralgic or it may be deeply seated, as was the case with Wagner, the musician, who was complaining constantly of "the nerves of his eyes."

The headache is often replaced by an inflammation of the eyelids, especially in young and healthy persons, who also have a little conjunctivitis, with a feeling of tension or fullness in the eyes which may become real pain of a dull aching character, the eyeballs being very tender on pressure.

Sometimes there are vertigo and sickness, with dyspepsia, palpitation and even difficulty in breathing. Sleeplessness is a very frequent symptom, due in part to the excessive flow of blood to the brain and in part to the low tone of the whole nervous system.

The symptoms of eye strain appear sooner in those who lead a confined and sedentary life, who follow occupations which need a constant use of the eyes in bad or unsuitable light and in those who are debilitated from any cause. The symptoms appear later in those of coarser fiber, who pass much of their time in the open air or who follow occupations which do not need a prolonged use of the eyes for close work.—*London Lancet.*

Odd Bargain of Dumas.

The library of Carpentras possesses among its treasures a curious collection of autographs. One is the signature of Alexandre Dumas pere to an old bargain which he proposed and which was accepted. This strange contract was that the author should present to the library of Cavallion copies of all his works, those already published and others which he might write in return for a supply of melons to be sent to him as long as he lived.—*Westminster Gazette.*

The Sperm Whale's Oil Tank. Professor R. C. Andrews believes that the oil tank in the head of the sperm whale is a provision of nature to save the monster from starvation when food is scarce. He says that his experiments show that the oil from the tank is absorbed by the whale's body at times when adequate food is unobtainable.—*London Telegraph.*

Anecdotes.

What is an anecdote? An anecdote is a story of extremely uncertain age that is founded on fiction and embellished by fancy. After lying dormant for years it is dug up and credited to an entirely innocent and unsuspecting United States senator.—*Cleveland Plain Dealer.*

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