

A PEACEABLE WARRIOR.

Since he had come into France with the invading army, Walter Schnaffs considered himself the most unfortunate of men.

At the beginning of every battle his legs used to weaken under him, and he would certainly have fallen if he had not remembered that the whole army would have to pass over his body.

For a moment Walter Schnaffs stood motionless, too surprised and terrified to think of flight.

Looking up, he could see the sky through the hole he had made.

The night fell, filling the ravine with darkness. The soldier grew thoughtful.

All at once he thought: "Supposing I was to be taken prisoner!"

He stood up, determined to put his plan into execution without losing a moment.

Or supposing he came upon the franc-tireurs? Oh, those franc-tireurs! A set of madmen without law or discipline.

Or he might even meet the whole of the French army itself.

It was quite dark by this time. The night had fallen dumb and black.

and every moment he fancied he heard footsteps near him.

After suffering all the tortures of the damned for interminable hours, he saw the sky beginning to lighten through the branches overhead.

When he woke the sun was high up in the sky, he guessed it to be about 11 o'clock. Not a sound disturbed the dull silence of the fields.

He took off his pointed helmet, which might have betrayed him, and cautiously put his head out of the ditch.

Night came upon him. He lay down at the bottom of the sheltering ditch, and slept a feverish sleep haunted by nightmares.

At last they reached the town-hall. The prison door was opened, and Walter Schnaffs was thrown in and unbound.

As soon as the shadows of evening darkened over him, he dragged himself slowly out of the ditch, and bent and fearful, with a beating heart, set out for the distant castle, choosing it in preference to the village, which seemed to him like a den of tigers.

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After a few moments hesitation he stepped over the window-sill and went up to the table.

Walter Schnaffs sat down before one of the untouched plates and began to eat. He devoured great mouthfuls, as if he had had time to swallow enough.

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"Forward!"

In an instant doors, and shutters, and windows gave way before a rush of men, who burst in, breaking everything, taking possession of the house.

He was breathless with amazement, too bewildered to understand what was going on, beaten, battered, and half mad with fright.

"You are my prisoner! Surrender!" "The Prussian will hear one word!" "Prisoner"—and he gasped out: "Ya, ya, Ji!"

The victors, blooming like gnomes, picked him up, bowed him to a chair, and examined him with great curiosity.

The stout soldier, who was mopping his forehead, shouted, "Victory!" And he wrote in a little book that he took out of his pocket.

The young officer asked: "What is to be done now, colonel?"

"We must fall back in case the enemy returns with artillery and reinforcements. And he gave the order to fall back.

The column re-formed in the dark, under the castle walls, and moved off with Walter Schnaffs in its midst, bound and held by six warriors, each holding a revolver.

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Fishing with Axes in Florida. Eight miles below Charlotte harbor is a coast in which you can wade fearlessly 1,500 feet from the shore.

Headquarters of Beelzebub. If Beelzebub means "Gnat God," the temple of that deity ought to be erected at Barras, near the junction of the Amazon and the Rio Negro.

A University Proposed for Siberia. The Russian government has decided to establish a "university" at Tomak in Siberia.

The Giant Trees of Australia. Evidence of the decay of forests in Australia is found in the present existence of a few trees far exceeding in size any of those about them.

A Valuable Dictionary Proposed. A dictionary for the scientific and technical terms in all languages is projected by Professor Vilanova.

DIAMOND FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

How a City Sprang Up in the Desert—A Vast Human Ant-Hill.

As the pan-washing and cradling of the adventurous prospector of '49 has given way, on the Pacific slope, to the operations of organized and scientific mining.

In 1872 what is now known as Kimberley was called De Beer's New Rush and had already been yielding up its carbon crystals until a city of tents and corrugated iron huts, with one huge music hall and between 300 and 400 drinking places had clustered around the enormous excavation.

Some idea of the size of the Kopje and the number of people working on it daily will be gathered from the statement that at the time now spoken of 800 claims, each being thirty feet square, and an average of about thirty men—say twenty-six black and four white—worked in each claim.

The Kopje has been aptly described as a vast human ant-hill," says a writer of the period referred to.

Some years ago Charles Busch, a naturalized German-American, accompanied by his pretty Italian wife, sailed for France to accept an engagement as a tenor singer in one of the opera companies in Paris.

In the southern central part of the state, however, extending from latitude 26 degrees 30 minutes to latitude 28 degrees 30 minutes, is a network of little lakes, rivers and swamps, which was long considered unfit for any of the purposes of civilized life.

The company organized by Diston, of Boston, obtained from the government a grant of all the lands which should be drained by it.

John Burroughs as a Vegetarian. John Burroughs finds that since he gave up the use of meat his health has been materially improved.

German Test for Watered Milk. A German test for watered milk consists in dipping a well-polished knitting needle into a deep vessel of milk and then immediately withdrawing it in an upright position.

Putting the Matter Plainly. A doctor is called to a man suffering from asthma. His visit over, he is stopped in the entry by the sick man's wife.

Law for the Protection of Birds. It is recalled by Forest and Stream that the first effective law for the protection of insectivorous birds was prepared by Henry William Herbert.

A Knotty Point in Theology. There is a story told of Drs. Chalmers and Stewart, who argued on the street corner on some knotty point of theology.

Gold and Platinum Jewelry. The association of gold and platinum is being made use of to produce new effects in jewelry.

HINTS FROM THE JAPANESE.

How We Could Learn from the Mikado's People to Simplify Our Homes.

We have been looking at some Japanese dwellings, interiors. How simple they are! How little furniture or adornment! How few "things" to care for and be anxious about!

When we look at the Japanese houses and at their comparatively simple life, we are warranted in saying that they are behind us in civilization.

What a helpless being is the housewife in the midst of her treasures. The Drawer has had occasion to speak lately of the recent enthusiasm in this country for the "cultivation of the mind."

A Boy Without a Country. Some years ago Charles Busch, a naturalized German-American, accompanied by his pretty Italian wife, sailed for France to accept an engagement as a tenor singer in one of the opera companies in Paris.

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He Knew It Must Be There. The name of the late Charles L. Davis, Esq. of Portland, stands on the list of Maine's great lawyers.

The noble conduct of the lord mayor and his officers strangely contrasted with that of the king and his court, who all fled away at the beginning and left things to look after themselves.

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THE SUMMER TIME OF 1665.

When the Plague Breathed Upon the People of London—Terrible Realities.

When the terrible pestilence first breathed upon the people, there passed one night over the city a comet of a faint, dull, languid color, and his motion very obscurely has been seen since.

The streets, with their shops and mansions side by side, which a few weeks before had been gay, with throngs of effeminate courtiers and dandies, old soldiers, wealthy citizens, and whistling apprentices, were now thronged with women and children, with tents and bedding; and numberless men upon horse-back cluttered over the stones, some with and some without servants, carrying baggage, all hurrying away from the doomed city.

The gates were closed in vain, the walls had withstood armies, but death crept through them, over them, under them, stalked in the streets, staired through cottage and palace window alike, and before it pale people died.

So commenced the plague, while all who could afford to fly fled before it, which after all was very few compared with those who remained.

By these regulations all infected houses were to be shut up and guarded by specially appointed "watchmen," one by day and one by night. No one was suffered to leave these houses, and it was thereby hoped that the plague might be stayed.

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AT HOME.

The frugal snail, with forecast of repose, Carries his house with him where'er he goes.

Retreats to his small domestic abode, Touch but a tip of him, a horn—'tis well, He curls up in his sanctified shell.

Long as he will he drags no "quarter day," Himself he boards and lodges; both invites And feasts himself; sleeps with himself o' nights.

He spares the upholsterer trouble to procure Chatte's; himself his own furniture, And his sole riches, "Where'er'er he roam, Knock when you will—he's sure to be at home."—Charles Lamb.

LITTLE MANNERISMS OF SPEECH.

Everybody is More or Less of a Nuisance at Times—Contradiction.

Everybody has some little mannerism of speech or gesture that he never knows he has. They chaff the English about "Don't you know?" but I wonder how many of the Americans, who use the expression constantly know they do it.

The man who interludes his conversation with "Don't you think so?" is more of a nuisance, because you never know whether he expects you to answer him or not.

But the most unusual impulse in human nature is to contradict, and nearly everybody does it. The man who agrees with you in everything is awfully pleasant for one trip, but you never make a great friend of him.

Manufacture of "One-Stroke" Barrels. Flour handlers and others who use barrels are just now interested in a "one-stroke" barrel, manufactured near Detroit.

While the size and shape of this barrel are the same as the ordinary kind, the body of the barrel consists of a single sheet of timber held by hoops. The timber used is elm, which is cheap and abundant.

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Robert Wolburn in Sunday Magazine.

Concerning the Hog of Honduras. While it would grieve me to offend the modest vanity of the swine-breeder of the states, truth compels me to say that with all their efforts, and perfect as they fancy their Poland-Chinas and Berkshires, those gentlemen have not succeeded in producing anything resembling the hog of Honduras.

The Value of Mittils in Mitts. These discussions or exchanges of opinion as to the value of mittils, compared to regular soldiers, are all right, but I tell you some respect is paid to the mittils in times of disturbance.

Was Well Versed in History. The school was celebrating the birthday of Oliver Wendell Holmes. "Who is Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes?"

A German metallurgist has introduced an apparatus for pumping molten lead by steam pressure.