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OFFICE AT
THE BANK OF ALAMANCE

A MAKER OF HISTORY

By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM,
Author of "The Master Plumber," "A Prince of Sinners," "Mysterious Mr. Sablin," "Anna the Adventurer," etc.

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CHAPTER XXXVII.

SPENCER, whose recovery during the last few days had been as rapid as the first development of his indisposition, had just changed for dinner and was lighting a "cigarette d'appertit" when, without waiting to be announced, the Vicomte de Bergillac entered the room. Spencer, with lightning-like intuition, knew that his time was come.

"Off with your coat, man, and get your code books out. I am going to give you the most sensational story which has ever appeared in your paper," he exclaimed. "Remember this—it must appear tomorrow morning. I am arranging for the French papers to have it. Yours shall be the only English journal. Glance through these sheets. They contain the story of 'l'affaire Poynton'."

Spencer was master of the gist of the thing in a very few moments. His eyes were bright with excitement. "Who guarantees this?" he asked quickly.

"My uncle has signed it," Henri de Bergillac answered, "and at the bottom of the page there you will see a still more distinguished signature. You understand 'l'affaire Poynton' now? It is very simple. That English boy actually witnessed a meeting between the czar and the emperor and turns up in Paris, with a loose sheet of a treaty between the two relative to an attack upon England. Our people got hold of him at the Cafe Montmartre, and we have hidden him away ever since. Our friends, the Germans, who seemed to have had some suspicions about him, have filled the city with spies, but from the first we have kept them off the scent. We had a little difficulty in convincing our friends, your country people, but we managed to borrow a few papers from the German ambassador while he was staying at a country house in England, which were sufficient."

Spencer was already writing. His coat lay on the floor where he had thrown it.

"Don't go for a moment," De Bergillac said. "I want to ask you a few things. I can talk and code at the same time. What was the name of the man?"

"Well, we had to take care of her, too," De Bergillac said. "Of course all her inquiries over here would have led to nothing, but they knew about her at the English embassy, so we walked her off from the Cafe Montmartre one night and took her to a friend of mine, the Marquise de St. Ethel. We told her a little of the truth and a little, I'm afraid, which was an exaggeration. Anyhow we kept her quiet, and we got her to go to England for us with Touquet. They had a very narrow shave down at Runton, by the bye."

"After this," Spencer said, "you were to have to look to their laurels. It is a triumph for the masters." The vicomte twisted his tiny black mustache.

"Yes," he said, "we have justified ourselves. It has cost us something, though."

"M. Louis?"

Spencer stopped writing.

"It was an affair of a million francs," the vicomte said. "I hope he has got the money."

Spencer resumed his work.

"The baron a traitor?" he exclaimed.

"Where is he?"

"In England. We are not vindictive. If the Germans paid him a million francs they got nothing for it. He has been watched from the first. We knew of it the moment he came to terms with them. He only knows bare facts. Nothing beyond. He is going to Brazil, I think. We shall not interfere."

"Tell me why," Spencer said, "you were so down on all of us who joined in the search for the Poynton?"

"We could not afford to run any risks of your discovering a clue," De Bergillac answered, "because in your turn were closely watched by German spies, hoping to discover them through you. That is why we had to strike you at all of you who interfered. I had a story for little Floesia, but she knew the risk she ran. We had to stop you, induce Duncombe to leave Paris and knock on the head a fool of an English detective for fear he might discover anything. M. Pelham was getting into danger, but of course it is all over now. Tomorrow we are bringing Guy into Paris."

Spencer nodded.

"Where is Duncombe?" he asked.

"Back in Paris," De Bergillac answered. "Arrived here with me today. He is much in love with the beautiful sister. Alas! It was to him that the treaty entrusted the missing page of the treaty which she found in her brother's luggage. Some day I must tell you of my adventures in England last night, when I went over to get it and found M. Louis a little ahead of me."

"Some day," Spencer murmured, "writing for dear life, with the perspiration streaming down his forehead. 'My dear vicomte, do you mind ringing the bell? I want my servant. I must telephone my paper to warn them of this. They must clear two columns of type for me.'"

The vicomte did as he was asked. Then he turned toward the door.

"I will leave you," he said. "The dust of England is still in my throat. Absinthe, a bath and dinner! An revoir, mon ami! Confess that I have kept the most amazing secret which M. Louis made you. It is what you call a coup, eh?"

Out on the boulevard the papers were selling like wildfire. The vicomte bought one and, sitting down outside a cafe, ordered absinthe. He stepped back and smiled to himself.

"The play commences," he murmured. "I must return to M. Spencer. Spencer was still working like a

few weeks there have been some very strange rumors about as to a meeting between your master and the emperor of Germany and an agreement which was forthwith signed between them. I need not remark that all such rumors were entirely discredited here. Such a meeting kept secret from us would of course be very seriously considered here."

The prince smiled. He remained admirably self possessed, though the very veins in his forehead were swollen with anger.

"A canard of the sort has reached my ears," he remarked. "Some English boy, I believe, laughed or dreamed that he saw some such meeting. We scarcely need, I think, to discuss this seriously."

"Personally I agree with you," M. Grison said smoothly. "My ministry, however, seems to have been a little impressed by the boy's story. An autograph letter from the czar denying it would perhaps make our negotiations more easy."

"It shall be forthcoming," the prince remarked, rising. "By the bye, I bear reports of great activity from Cherbouurg. More maneuvers, eh?"

M. Grison shrugged his shoulders. "Our new naval chief," he remarked, "is a marvel of industry. You know the English proverb about the new broom, eh?"

"The new broom," De Bergillac took his leave. He had telephoned for his motor which was waiting outside. He gave the order to drive to his rooms. On the way he passed the great pile of buildings in the Louvre. In a room at the extreme end of the pile a light was burning. De Bergillac looked at it curiously. A small brougham, which he recognized, stood outside.

"If one could see inside," he muttered. "It would be interesting!"

In a sense it was interesting. M. Grison sat there in front of his open table. His secretary's place by his side was vacant. Opposite sat a tall man with gray hair and dark mustache. He was dressed for the evening, and his breast glittered with stars and orders.

"It is exceedingly kind of you, monsieur," he said, "to grant me this interview at so short notice. I was most anxious to apprise you of news which, as yet, I believe, has not found its way into your papers. You have read recently a Russian attack upon an English fishing fleet, but you have not yet been informed of the presence—the undoubted presence—of Japanese torpedo boats concealed among them."

M. Grison raised his eyebrows.

"Indeed, no," he answered. "We have not even heard a rumor of anything of the sort."

"Nevertheless their presence was indisputable," the prince declared. "Under those circumstances, monsieur, you can doubtless understand that our reply to any protests on the part of England will be of an unapologetic nature. We should not for a moment allow ourselves to be dictated to by the allies of our enemy."

"Naturally," M. Grison answered. "On the other hand, you surely do not quarrel with England at the present moment?"

"We wish to quarrel with no one," the prince answered haughtily. "At the same time, we are not afraid of England. We recognize the fact that if war should come it is an independent affair and does not come under the obligations of our alliance. We ask, therefore, for your neutrality alone."

M. Grison bowed.

"The Russian," he said gravely, "you speak lightly enough of the possibilities of war, but surely you must know that the English fleet in the channel and at Gibraltar together outmatches the Baltic fleet?"

"A Russian," the prince answered grandly, "is not afraid of great odds?"

M. Grison bowed.

"For the sake of humanity," he said, "I trust most sincerely that affairs may be peaceably arranged. If the contrary should turn out to be the case, I can only say that in a quarrel which concerns Russia and England France would remain benevolently neutral. As you have remarked, the obligations of our treaty do not apply to such a case."

The prince played nervously with the star at his chest. Both men were well aware that up to now they had been merely playing with words.

"There is another contingency," the Russian remarked, "which now we are upon the subject of—perhaps you are well acquainted with it. The relations between Germany and England, as you know, just now are very sorely strained. If Germany should take advantage of the present situation to make a demonstration against England, that, of course, would not from your point of view affect the situation?"

M. Grison looked like a man who sees before him something that he does not understand one another. "You mean," he said, "that Germany might associate herself with you in your resistance to possible English demands?"

The Russian leaned back in his chair. "Germany," he said on the spot, "he remarked, 'and knows the facts of the case. She has proofs of the presence of Japanese torpedo boats among the English fishing fleet. Her natural love of fair play might possibly lead her to espouse our cause in this particular instance. This, of course, would make for peace. If Germany commands, England will obey. She could not do otherwise.'"

"You have introduced, my dear prince," M. Grison said, "an altogether new phase to this question, and one which merits the most grave consideration. Am I to understand that there is any arrangement between Germany and yourselves with respect to this question?"

"Scarcely anything so definite as an arrangement," the prince answered. "merely an understanding. M. Grison had the air of a man who has just received grave tidings of his dearest friend.

"Is this, M. le Prince," he said, "entirely in accord with our own treaty obligations?"

"We do not consider it to be in contravention to them," the prince answered.

The gravity of M. Grison's manner grew even more pronounced.

"My dear prince," he said, "you are doubtless aware that during the last

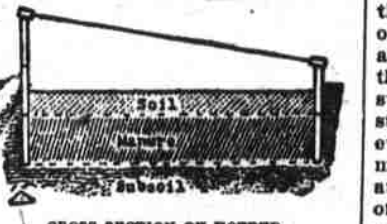
FARM & GARDEN

THE HOTBED.

Proper Location to Select—Method of Construction.

The hotbed should be located if possible in some sheltered place either on the south side of a building or on the southern or southeastern slope of a hill. The soil and subsoil where it is to stand should be naturally or artificially well drained. Hotbeds may be made of any reasonable length, but should correspond with the number of sash to be used. The common and very convenient size of sash is 8 by 9 feet. These may be purchased ready made or constructed at home, as is desired. Where the hotbed is to supply the wants of the family only three sash will be sufficient. This will provide for a hotbed 6 by 9 feet or fifty-four square feet in extent.

Before beginning the construction of the frame the soil should be excavated



CROSS SECTION OF HOTBED.

where it is to stand eighteen inches deep and two feet wider and longer than the outside measurements of the frame. Four by four inch pieces of wood may be used for posts, to which planks should be nailed on the sides and ends. The height of the frame should be about two feet in front and three feet on the back, eighteen inches of each side being below the surface of the ground. After the frame is put in place the earth should be firmly compacted around it, and it should have the surface of the soil slope away from the frame to provide for surface drainage.

About ten days or two weeks before it is desired to sow the seed in the hotbed the required amount of fresh horse manure, which has been added one-third of its bulk of straw or leaves, should be spread in a compact pile. If the manure is not uniformly wet, a little water may be added, but not enough to make it soggy. The manure will show signs of fermenting, generally known as heating, in a few days, when it should be forked over, thoroughly mixed and made into a compact heap again. After another interval of three or four days the manure is ready to be placed in the frame. As it is put in it should be compacted with a fork and by tramping. In order that the manure may be one foot deep after it has had time to settle it should be about fourteen or fifteen inches deep when first put in.

The best soil to use is a compost, such as is used in greenhouses and which consists of two-thirds sods and one-third manure well composted. Any good garden soil will do, however, if a composted soil is not available, says American Agriculturist. The depth of the soil should be about four or five inches.

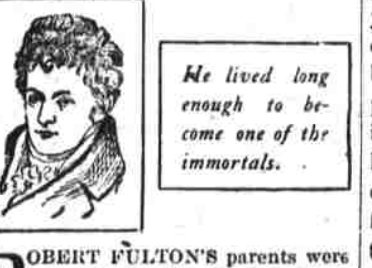
The sash should be put in place at once after the dirt is put in the frame, but the seeds should not be sown for three or four days or until the temperature of the soil is at about 70 degrees. The sowing of the seed, thinning of the plants, stirring of the soil and general care should be about the same as for the same crops when sown in beds in the garden.

Watering and ventilating are the most particular operations. Water should not be applied except in the morning and on bright days. It should be at about the temperature of the

TWO MINUTE SKETCHES

Robert Fulton.

By J. A. EDGERTON.



He lived long enough to become one of the immortals.

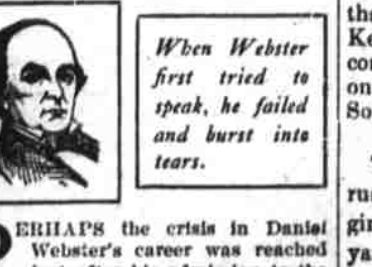
ROBERT FULTON'S parents were so poor that the future inventor had scarcely any education, barely learning how to read and write. His father died when Robert was three years old, and at an early age the boy was apprenticed to a Philadelphia Jeweler. In addition to his work in the shop, young Fulton applied himself to portrait and landscape painting and showed such talent that he was enabled to keep his widowed mother and in four years bought a farm on which he placed her. He then went to London to prosecute the study of his art as a painter. So strong a bent had he for science, however, that in his odd hours he studied mechanics and engineering. Finally attracting the attention of the Duke of Bridgewater, who was then interested in an extensive canal scheme, Fulton was induced by that gentleman to give up painting altogether and to devote himself to civil engineering and invention.

In the next few years Fulton invented an inclined plane for supporting canal locks, a mill for sawing and polishing marble, a machine for spinning flax and another for making ropes. He also wrote a book on navigating canals and another on the application of steam to navigation. At about this time he attracted the notice of Edward F. Livingston, United States minister at Paris. In response to an invitation Fulton went to that city, where he soon invented a submarine boat, which he vainly tried to have adopted by the French, British and American governments. After his failure in this attempt he returned to his dream of steam navigation and invented a small boat which successfully navigated the Seine. Livingston was so interested that he advanced money to Fulton to come to America and build a steamboat for the Hudson. The result was the Clermont, from whose first trip between New York and Albany dates the beginning of a new era in the water transportation of the world. The Clermont marked the high tide of Fulton's success. He was forty-two years old at the time and lived only eight years longer, having been worn out by the incessant toil of his earlier life. He had lived long enough, however, to become one of the immortals.

TWO MINUTE SKETCHES

Daniel Webster.

By J. A. EDGERTON.



When Webster first tried to speak, he failed and burst into tears.

PERHAPS the crisis in Daniel Webster's career was reached just after his admission to the bar, when he was offered a court clerkship. At that time he was very poor and had shown little of the wonderful oratorical ability which afterward distinguished him. The tender of such a place was therefore a sore temptation. Webster, however, decided not to take it, stating that he intended to say things himself, not find any ready-made words. Webster heard of the offer, and he cut him, but he had enough common sense to recognize the justice of the restriction and to profit by it. He resolved never again to indulge in mere oratory for its own sake and to speak only when he had something to say.

As a boy on the farm Webster did not like to work, but when he got into his own field he was on occasions a prodigious worker. When in school, he was given a hundred lines of Virgil to memorize. All night he worked and, when called upon to repeat what he had learned, not only did so, but asked leave to give another hundred, then still another hundred, after which he stated that he was ready to repeat 500 more.

With the "modern Democratic" personal appearance was more than half the battle.

"Unle!" laughed East.

In a crowd waiting for a car at Elder's street and Grand avenue the other day was an old negro who was inclined to be discursive. Two high school boys believed they saw a chance to make fun of him and made several remarks at which they themselves laughed heartily. Finally one of them said, "You're a preacher, aren't you, uncle?"

"Yes, sah," replied the negro, blinking with a sad air. "Ah'm a undertaker too. Ah don't wish you no bad luck, but Ah'd lak to have yo' business."—Kansas City Times.

Effective Advertising.

London Advertising World.

The basis for effective advertising is your reader's self interest.

Describe the goods as fully as you please, talk about your factory, your reputation, your methods, your business policy, give pictures of processes, product or pretty girls, build up the story from your standpoint and emphasize it by fine printing, strengthen your argument with logic, physiology, mechanics or tradition, and still the whole thing will fall unless this elaboration leads up to the point where the reader is told what the goods are going to do for him.

Dissect the "live" selling advertisement and it will be found to lie in every sentence that arouses the desire of possession. After the clothing factory has been described and the suit pictured, then the advertiser must put the coat on the reader and smooth it down the back. Description is largely fudge unless it leads up to arguments that arouse this desire for possession; it may be impossible to arouse desire until description has demonstrated desirability. But unless the advertisement appeals in the end on a strict basis of self interest it wastes words, printing ink and paper.

Interest is one thing in advertising. Self interest of the reader is another. Get them well defined in your mind and be sure to put them both in. If one must be left out let it be mere interest.

Occasional headache, belching, bad taste in the mouth, lack of appetite and slight nervousness are symptoms of indigestion which, when allowed to go uncorrected, will develop into a case of dyspepsia that will take a long time to get rid of. Don't neglect your stomach. At the first indication of trouble take something that will help it along in its work of digesting the food you eat. Kodol For Indigestion and Dyspepsia will do this. Kodol will make your food do you good and will enable you to enjoy what you eat. Sold by J. C. Simmons Drug Co.

At Blanche, a small station in Caswell county, Saturday a week, a young man named N. A. Holt jumped from a moving train and was killed. Holt expected to get at Blanche, which was near his home, and finding that the train did not stop there he jumped off with fatal results.

Weak Hearts

Are due to indigestion. Ninety-nine out of every one hundred people who have heart trouble can remember when it was simple indigestion. It is a scientific fact that all cases of heart disease, not organic, are not only treatable, but are the direct result of indigestion. All food taken into the stomach which fails of perfect digestion ferments and swells the stomach, pushing it up against the heart. This interferes with the action of the heart, and in the course of time delicate but vital organs become diseased.

Kodol Digests What You Eat and relieves the stomach of all nervous strain and the heart of all pressure.

Bottles only \$1.00. Size holding 2 1/2 times the total.

Prepared by E. O. DEWITT & CO., CHICAGO.

J. C. Simmons, Druggist.

Kodol Dyspepsia Cure

Digest what you eat.

This medicine contains all of the digestive juices of all kinds of food. It is a natural element and never fails to do its duty. You eat all the food you want. The most sensitive stomachs can take it. By its means thousands of dyspeptics have been cured after everything else failed. It is used all over the world. Children with weak stomachs thrive on it. First dose relieves. A diet unnecessary.

Cures all stomach troubles.

Prepared only by E. O. DEWITT & CO., Chicago.

The 1/2 bottle contains 2 1/2 times the total.

FOLEY'S HONEY AND TAR

stops the cough and heals lungs

Wood's Grass and Clover Seeds.

Best Qualities Obtainable and of Tested Germination.

Fall is the best time for sowing. You rest and improve your land, and rest yourself, by putting fields down in permanent grasses and clovers.

Write for Wood's Descriptive Fall Catalogue, telling best kind to sow, quantities to sow per acre, and giving full information about all seeds for fall planting, both for the Farm and Garden.

Catalogue mailed free on request.

T. W. WOOD & SONS,
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The Largest Seed House in the South.

For Coughs and Colds

There is a remedy over sixty years old—Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Of course you have heard of it, probably have used it. Once in the family, it stays; one household remedy for coughs and hard colds on the chest. Ask your doctor about it.

"The best kind of a testimonial—'Sold for over sixty years.'"



Remember Headaches

This time of the year are signals of warning. Take Taraxacum Compound now. It may save you a spell of fever. It will regulate your bowels, set your liver right, and cure your indigestion. A good Tonic. An honest medicine!

Taraxacum Compound

Weak Hearts

Are due to indigestion. Ninety-nine out of every one hundred people who have heart trouble can remember when it was simple indigestion. It is a scientific fact that all cases of heart disease, not organic, are not only treatable, but are the direct result of indigestion. All food taken into the stomach which fails of perfect digestion ferments and swells the stomach, pushing it up against the heart. This interferes with the action of the heart, and in the course of time delicate but vital organs become diseased.

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