

LETTERS FROM ABROAD

By A. M. STACK. (Copyright 1906 by R. F. Beasley.) No. 7.

A Day in French Court and the Impressions It Makes on an American Lawyer—French Justice is Swift, But Expensive, and Does Not Give a "Square Deal" to the Accused.

Of my time in Paris I spent one day in the court house in order to witness a French trial of a cause. They don't call it a court house, but "Palais de Justice." It is indeed a palace and the different courts have their several rooms. I dropped in the criminal department when I soon saw that something of importance was to be tried. Just what it was I could not learn as everything was so Frenchy. But from all that I could gather the two prisoners were charged with stabbing a policeman. And after the trial was over, I was still like the fellow who asked if he knew who struck Billy Patterson. His answer was that he "did not know, but from the great fame of that noted assult and his identity he was satisfied of one thing, and that was—Patterson must have received a hell-of-a-lick." Whether or not that policeman was killed, or which of the prisoners hit him, if either of them did, I could not learn from the evidence, but I was convinced of one thing, and that was—that a policeman got a terrible lick.

A French trial in court is strictly a business affair, with official features. The real trial, however, takes place in secret and in the absence of the accused. The government's witnesses are examined by the public prosecutor and their evidence reduced to writing and laid before the court. This preliminary investigation takes the place of our grand jury, and is the real trial. The whole thing is then "out and tried" and the public trial is merely formal and perfunctory. It goes through like greased machinery.

The court room was crowded and a large number of well dressed ladies, accompanied by their husbands or other gentlemen were present. Everything indicated that the case was an important one. A large number had only standing room, but they remained throughout and heard the whole case. As the time approached for the court to open, clerks and other court officers were filling here and there, placing books and papers in their proper places, and then the lawyer in his gown went to the bar and took his seat in the bar. It was a foggy day and the lamps had to be lighted. At the scheduled hour a gong sounded and the three judges came in from rear room and walked promptly to their chairs. The audience rose and stood until the judges were seated. They wore gowns, were bald-headed and up to the neck in black and red. The public prosecutor, wearing a gown like judges, came in with the judges and took his seat in the bar between the judges and the jury. The prisoners were brought in at a side entrance in the custody of five uniformed police, who took their seats in the bar between the prosecutor and the jury. The jury sat just across the bar facing the prisoners. The two lawyers who defended sat just in front of their clients and the three judges were seated at the head of the bar. The chief justice required the defendants to stand up, read over to them the evidence taken in private and then proceeded to examine and cross-examine the witnesses. He was very polite and the defendants were not sworn nor did they affirm. The evidence taken in secret appeared to make out a prima facie case and the prisoners called upon to show cause why they should not be convicted. The evidence taken in secret appeared to make out a prima facie case and the prisoners called upon to show cause why they should not be convicted. The evidence taken in secret appeared to make out a prima facie case and the prisoners called upon to show cause why they should not be convicted.

Whether or not the policeman was killed I could not gather from the evidence or the argument, but the fact that the prisoners were allowed a jury showed that the charge was a serious one. The law in France is entitled to jury only in serious felonies. And notwithstanding the importance of this case it was tried in the ordinary manner. The chief justice over in Mecklenburg or in Stany would have addressed the jury that long. But while the trials are speedy under the French system, it is slow and expensive in the United States. The state is everything and the individual nothing. In our country much more time is required to try a case because the parties to the suit are allowed to make long and tedious speeches. The Anglo-Saxon believes in the rights of the individual and in curbing the power of the state. The French believes in the power of the state and in curbing the rights of the individual. The French system is slow and expensive, but it is an incident of our system. Sometimes the guilty go unwhipped of justice, but who is to blame? And then we hear some fellow railing at the lawyers and the courts, but when that same fellow gets into trouble or has suffered a wrong at the hands of another he is swift to employ a lawyer and to insist on all of his rights and privileges guaranteed him by the laws. In response to this thoughtless clamor there is an apparent tendency on the part of legislatures and judges in our main States to depart from the old landmarks and shave down the rights and privileges of the individual. That there may be defects in our law no one will deny, but it is not an "iridescent dream." It were better after all to bear the ills we have than to fly to those we know not of. When that poor fellow broke down and cried he felt in his very heart that he had not had a "square deal." He had simply been put in a mill and ground out without the slightest consideration of his rights as a citizen. He was convicted before his trial began and he knew it.

With all of its speed French law is not more cheaply administered than ours is. With a jury to try the facts there are two surplus judges on the bench who took no part in the trial whatever. While the lawyers were pleading they both slept soundly. How I did wish that one of the brethren of the law society but could have addressed that jury. He would have waked up those surplus judges or caused them to dream of thunder. Throughout the trial there was the most perfect order. Judge Shaw never had better order in his court. Besides the two policemen in charge of the two defendants, there were scattered over the court room eight or ten other officers, on bic salaries, with shining caps and uniforms on sidewalks and in the streets. Everything was "as still as a mouse"—except old Volubility. Nothing on earth could keep him quiet.

I left that court room a better American. In some few things, and in a few particulars, foreign laws may excel us—but they are few indeed. Our system of law is the product of wise men, extracted from the wisdom, the experience and wrongs suffered in the long gone by.

The more an American sees and hears of foreign lands and their institutions, the prouder he becomes of the fact that he is a citizen of a "Times" republic offspring the last. Paris, France.

Si El Mehdi El-Menehbi. (Continued from Page One.)

beautiful flowers and semi-tropical plants and trees. One section of it contained a tennis court with a cement floor as smooth as marble, where the ex-minister delights to play tennis with his European friends. There is a central path through the gardens, and down this we walked until we came into two great reception rooms, where the war minister received his men friends. We passed through the first set of parlors, which are floored with mosaic and luxuriously furnished and then came into a large room walled with glass looking out upon the Atlantic ocean. The house is built on a high bluff hanging right over the sea and the mountains of Spain were in plain sight across the way. We could hear the surf roar as it dashed against the rocks below. At the entrance to this room stood two tall clocks of the kind that sell in the United States for \$500 apiece, and they played the chimps at the striking of the hour. The tiled floor was covered with oriental rugs, the great divans were upholstered in rich red Morocco leather, and about the walls were cases containing rare china and swords, rifles and other weapons, inlaid with gold and silver. The surroundings were those of a man of taste, and this was my impression of Menehot when he appeared.

A Typical Moor. Let me tell you how he looks. He is a typical Moor of the better class and of a kind one does not expect to find in what is generally known as one of the black spots of this black continent. Si El Mehdi el-Menehbi would make one of the handsomest Ottomans who ever trod the stage. He is tall, straight and fine looking, and his Moorish costume makes him look like a noble and light complexioned Arab, like all Moorish men wear a full beard, his whiskers being brown and curly and as fine as silk. A broad forehead with large hazel eyes was to be seen below his white turban. His nose is straight and his cheekbones high. His costume consisted of a long white woolen gown, or burouse, with a hood at the back, and the sleeves of this were so wide that they showed his fore-arm to the elbow. The skin was as white as yours or mine. As we chatted he now and then smiled, showing a set of strong teeth, and he twice perceptibly yawned.

Morocco in a Sad Condition. During my conversation I asked him as to the condition of the country. He replied that Morocco was in a bad state. The government has practically no control over the tribes and the people are now refusing to pay taxes or to send in tribute to the sultan. The army has dwindled to a few hundred troops, and the sultan has no soldiers to speak of outside of Fez. When Menehbi was at the head of the government his majesty had about 10,000 troops, and his power was such that the various tribes sent in tribute and presents worth many thousands of dollars. Every tribe sent one or more horses, many sent large sums of money, and there were other gifts of value. Upon the last tribute day the receipts were practically nothing.

I here asked Mr. Menehbi as to the safety of foreigners traveling in Morocco at the present time. He replied that the question as to whether the stranger would reach his destination safely was very uncertain. He might go through unharmed, or he might be captured by one of the tribes and killed. It is a matter in the hands of God, with the chances against rather than for the man. In short words, God might protect the foreigner, but the chances are that he will not.

The Military Possibilities of the Moors. Menehbi, as head of the war department of the sultan for years and commander-in-chief of the army, should know much about the military possibilities of Morocco. During our talk I asked him whether his people made good soldiers. He replied: "Both the Berbers and Moors are brave to an excess. They have excellent fighting stuff in them, and if the time comes when the tribes can be organized and welded together, an army of a hundred thousand men could be raised. As it is now, each tribe furnishes a certain quota of mounted men and these altogether make up the army. One large tribe may furnish 2,000 soldiers, a second a regiment and a third only a company

Such soldiers are officered by the chiefs of their tribes, and they are subordinate to the general of the sultan. There are many quarrels among the tribes, and it is difficult to harmonize and organize them. They are always warring among themselves, and it would be only upon religious grounds that they could be formed into a compact army organization."

Might Be Conquered, But Not Subdued. "Could not any one of the great powers of Europe easily conquer Morocco?" I asked Mr. Menehbi. "The easiest country that will conquer," replied the former minister of war, "but it could not subdue us. Our people are fearless, independent and liberty loving. They are fond of their religion and their country, and especially of the localities where they live. Many of the tribes would fight until the last man had dropped, and in this land of the Atlas mountains it would be almost impossible to bring us into permanent subjection."

"Do you think that the Algerians conference will be to the benefit of Morocco?" "Yes, but much better provisions might have been made. The number of troops set aside for the protection of foreigners at the ports will be totally inadequate. Only 2,500 are provided for the eight towns, and 5,000 could be employed here in Tangier alone."

The Morocco of the Future. "Do you think that changes will soon take place in Morocco?" "That depends much upon the government and how the people are handled. If they could understand that Morocco could hold its independence and still have modern reforms I think many new things could be introduced. A strong government is needed, however, to make the experiment. When I went to London as the sultan's ambassador I entered into certain arrangements as to railroads and other modern innovations, but the situation in the country here which is foreign ways were such that I was not able to carry them out. I believe, however, that Morocco has a future, which will be far different from its past. We have a country here which is wonderfully fertile. We can raise grain of many kinds, and fruit that is surpassed by that of no other land. Cattle, horses and sheep will thrive almost anywhere, and our people make good stock men and farmers. Morocco is also rich in minerals. There is coal right here near the Strait of Gibraltar, and the Atlas mountains have deposits of gold, silver, copper and iron. The country has never been prospected but its possibilities are undoubtedly great."

A Message for the American People. In closing our conversation, I asked Mr. Menehbi to send, through me, a few words of greeting to the American people, saying: "Your excellency in tribute and presents worth many thousands of dollars. Every tribe sent one or more horses, many sent large sums of money, and there were other gifts of value. Upon the last tribute day the receipts were practically nothing."

I here asked Mr. Menehbi as to the safety of foreigners traveling in Morocco at the present time. He replied that the question as to whether the stranger would reach his destination safely was very uncertain. He might go through unharmed, or he might be captured by one of the tribes and killed. It is a matter in the hands of God, with the chances against rather than for the man. In short words, God might protect the foreigner, but the chances are that he will not.

The Military Possibilities of the Moors. Menehbi, as head of the war department of the sultan for years and commander-in-chief of the army, should know much about the military possibilities of Morocco. During our talk I asked him whether his people made good soldiers. He replied: "Both the Berbers and Moors are brave to an excess. They have excellent fighting stuff in them, and if the time comes when the tribes can be organized and welded together, an army of a hundred thousand men could be raised. As it is now, each tribe furnishes a certain quota of mounted men and these altogether make up the army. One large tribe may furnish 2,000 soldiers, a second a regiment and a third only a company

greater than mine," have been equalled by a Yankee boy. Arthur Gluckman, a newsboy of thirteen years, went to the Philippines from San Francisco with the Twentieth Infantry and was adopted by the Regiment. In the charge upon the insurgents' trenches near Pasig he ran up the slope with the foremost of the soldiers and fell with a bullet in his leg. When the regulars brought a blanket to cover the pale and suffering little fellow, where he had been placed with the wounded, he said:

"Never mind me; give it to that other man. He needs it more than I do." When the surgeon approached, he waived him away, saying, "I can wait, doctor, until you get through with those other men." In the arms of Dean Worcester, of the Philippine Commission, he was borne to the general hospital at Manila, where at last accounts he was recovering from his wound. He wants to go to West Point when he is old enough. See.

FRANK G. CARPENTER. A Newboy Knight. Sir Philip Sidney's well-known words on the field of Zutphen, when he gave his portion of water to a soldier, "Friend, thy necessity is

To All the World

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla. Includes an illustration of a man in a top hat and a box of the medicine. Text: 'Guaranteed Under the Food and Drugs Act June 30, 1906. No. 324. The Standard Blood Remedy of the World. Pure, Safe, Effective, Economical. 100 Doses One Dollar. A positive specific for all troubles of the blood, stomach, liver and kidneys. It is endorsed by physicians, druggists, and, best of all, by the thousands of people whom it has cured. Cures scrofula, eczema, all eruptions and humors, indigestion, dyspepsia, rheumatism, catarrh, kidney and liver difficulties and all troubles arising from or promoted by impure blood or a low condition of the system. Its merits, its substantiated claims, its cures, entitle it to your perfect confidence. Buy a bottle and begin to take it today. Guaranteed under the Food and Drugs Act, June 30, 1906. No. 224.'

It depends not upon what we say, but upon what the people who have used it say, for its reputation and its record. Sarsatabs are Hood's Sarsaparilla in tablet form. Have identically the same curative properties. Sold by all druggists or mailed on receipt of price, \$1, by C. I. Hood Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.

A BEAUTIFUL FACE. Send for Particulars and Testimonials of the remedy that clears the Complexion, Removes Skin Imperfections, Makes New Blood and Improves Health. If you take BEAUTYSKIN beneficial results are guaranteed or money refunded. CHICHESTER CHEMICAL CO., Madison Place, Philadelphia, Pa.

Advertisement for Draughon's Practical Business Colleges. Includes a map of the United States showing college locations. Text: 'Locations of RALEIGH, N. C. Cor. Martin and Wilmington Interstate Phone 570 S. M. SMITH, Local Manager. \$50 in Gold YOU Given to If You Will Furnish a More Convincing Argument Than the Following (A Deposit in Bank). THIS CERTIFIES that \$50.00 has been deposited in this bank for twelve months by DRAUGHON'S PRACTICAL BUSINESS COLLEGE CO. as a guarantee of good faith that it will make good its proposition published in its booklet entitled "Draughon's Eye-Opener," which proposition is in substance as follows: Two students may be selected to take bookkeeping—one THREE months in one of Draughon's Colleges, and one SIX months in any other business college in the United States; and at the end of THREE and SIX months, respectively, these students are to be examined by three judges—practical bookkeepers—one each to be selected by the respective colleges, the two judges to select the third one, the majority to rule, and if Draughon's THREE-MONTHS' student has not as good or BETTER knowledge of bookkeeping than the other college's SIX-MONTHS' student, Draughon will pay tuition for said student and all the expenses of the examination; the examination to consist of making such entries as come up in keeping books for mercantile houses and banks, plain double-entry bookkeeping for partnerships and corporations, etc., changing books from single to double entry, opening and closing books for partnership firms and corporations. [Signed] CITY SAVINGS BANK, Per A. S. WILLIAMS, President, Nashville, Tenn., October 2, 1906. OVER \$95,000.00 SUPREME JUDGES SAY POSITIONS SEND FOR CATALOGUE DIPLOMA THAT HAS VALUE. Draughon's "Eye-Opener," a 48-page booklet, will open the eyes of the blind and untie the ears of the deaf—those who are not already convinced that Draughon gives the BEST courses of instruction in Bookkeeping, Shorthand, etc. Draughon's "Eye-Opener," a 48-page booklet, will open the eyes of the blind and untie the ears of the deaf—those who are not already convinced that Draughon gives the BEST courses of instruction in Bookkeeping, Shorthand, etc. NIGHT and DAY Sessions NIGHT School—Special Rates.

International in reputation; endorsed by business men from Maine to California. Let us tell you more about Draughon's Colleges. Call, phone, or write for catalogue. LEARN BY MAIL—Bookkeeping, Penmanship, Letter Writing, Arithmetic, Drawing, Illustrating, Law (qualify for practice), Business English, Etc. Money back if not satisfied after taking a course by mail. Write to-day for prices on Home Study.