



# Sign of the Four.

BY CONAN DOYLE.

"Well, we carried him in, Abdullah, Akbar and I. A fine weight he was, for all that he was so short. Mahomet Singh was left to guard the door. We took him to a place which the Sikhs had already prepared. It was some distance off, where a winding passage leads to a great empty hall, the walls of which were all crumpled and broken. The earth floor had sunk in some places, making a natural grave, and we left Akhmet the merchant there, having first covered him over with these bricks. This done, we all went back to the treasure.

It was where he had dropped it when he was first attacked. The box was the same which now lies open upon some table. A key was hung by a silken cord to that carved handle upon the wall. We opened it, and the light of the lantern gleamed upon a collection of gems such as I have never seen before. When I was a little lad at Feshere, it was blinding to look upon them. When we had feasted our eyes, we took them all out and made a list of them. There were one hundred and forty-three diamonds of the first water, including one which has been called, I believe, 'the Great Mogul,' and is said to be the second largest in existence. Then there were one hundred and seventy rubies, some of which, however, were small. There were forty emeralds, two hundred and thirty opals, sixty-one agates and a great quantity of beryls, onyxes, cat's-paws, tourmalines and other stones, the names of which I did not know at the time, though I have become more familiar with them since. Besides these there were nearly three hundred pearls, twelve of which were set in gold coronets. By the way, the last had been taken out of the chest and were not there when I returned it.

After we had counted our treasures, we put them back into the chest and carried them to the gateway to show them to Mahomet Singh. Then we solemnly renewed our oath to stand by each other and be true to our secret. We agreed to conceal our lot in a safe place until the country should be at peace again, and then to divide it equally among ourselves. There was no one dividing it at present, for if any of such value were found upon me, it would cause suspicion, and there was no privacy in the fort nor any place where we could keep them. We carried the box, therefore, into the same hall where we had buried the body, and there, under certain bricks in the best preserved wall, we made a hole by which we could get in and out without being seen. We made careful note of the place, and next day I drew four plans, one for each of us, and put the sign of the four of us at the bottom, for we had sworn that we should each always act for all, so that none might take advantage. That is an oath that I can put my hand to my heart and swear that I have never broken.

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## CAST UP BY THE SEA.

GRAPHIC STORIES OF WRECK.

Halfbreath Escapes and Harrowing Scenes When the Pacific Mail Steamer Colima Foundered.

On Thursday at San Francisco the San Juan arrived from Panama and way ports with survivors of the wrecked Pacific Mail steamer Colima.

George D. Rife, formerly a mate on the cruiser Olympia, gave the United Press reporter the following graphic account of the wreck:

"We left Matlan Sunday, May 26, at 4 o'clock P. M., with a fair breeze blowing. Toward 9 o'clock in the evening the wind increased a little and continued blowing pretty fresh all night. Next morning at six o'clock the wind moderated considerably until it acquired the proportions of a hurricane. The Colima labored heavily and the report that we were in a very precarious predicament. The greatest excitement prevailed on board.

"Unfortunately just at the last moment a fatal blunder was committed by the third officer, who cut the lashings of a deck load consisting of 32,000 feet of lumber. Some of this was washed into the sea and what remained on deck was driven out, knocking down and maiming those whom it struck. A particularly heavy stack struck the ship, tumbling the foremast and smashing the rigging. Before this, however, a succession of huge waves had punched a hole in our starboard side through which the sea poured. Women screamed and rushed up the companion way, imploring the men to save them. The ship gave a couple of heavy rolls, and an enormous sea broke over the bow. The hurricane deck and with one mighty lurch the ship went down. As she was making her lurch I dove into the sea and when I came up she was out of sight. I was floating around, clinging to all sorts of wreckage, and some sinking under our very eyes. Some who had managed to grasp hold of boxes or planks were knocked senseless and drowned. The force and effect of this floating mass of lumber cannot be described. It caused the death of many who might otherwise have saved.

"It is a difficult matter to say to what cause the wreck of the Colima is attributable. She must have been struck by a heavy sea, her strong list to port showed. 'I firmly believe that but for the shifting of the cargo the ship would have ridden out the gale. I had been in the water some little time, clinging to one object or another, when finally I managed to get hold of a good piece of lumber. I was able to climb and, being close to shore, was soon picked up.' 'I, J. Oriol, an electrician on his way to Mexico, gave about the time of the commencement of the storm. He said the Colima, during the height of the storm, listed so badly after each succeeding rush of waves that she did not seem to be moving. On the morning of the wreck, he said: 'I went below to the stowage quarters and noticed water coming into the stowage compartments. The latter were full of water, and down saying the captain wanted to see the engineer. The latter went down and found the engine room in three or four minutes looking like a dead man. His face was ashy pale. That was the last seen of him.' 'By this time the stowage passengers had all gone below. Then the seven men-of-war from the American cruisers Olympia and Albatross, which were in the neighborhood, were ordered to search for survivors. One of these finally told us we were doomed.

## THE LATEST NEWS.

GLEANINGS FROM MANY POINTS.

Important Happenings, Both Home and Foreign, Briefly Told.

**Southern Dots.**  
The first car load of peaches to leave Georgia this season was shipped from Tifton Thursday.

A six-year-old daughter of Charles Mitchell, who lives in Savannah, Ga., was killed, it is claimed, by falling out of a bed and striking her head on a sawyer. The parents of the child could not be found and the case is a very suspicious one.

The Atlanta and Florida railroad, running from Atlanta to Fort Valley, a distance of 100 miles, was sold at public outcry by the United States marshal, and was bid in by the Central Trust Company of New York, which held it in mortgage. The road was bid in at \$275,000.

At Knoxville, Tenn., the Bristol, Elizabeth and North Carolina Railroad was sold at receivers' sale on Friday to the Pennsylvania Steel Company for \$175,000. The road is in operation from Bristol to Elizabeth, Tenn., a distance of twenty-six miles and it will be extended to Asheville, N. C.

President Andrew Spencer says that the Southern Railway has acquired control of the reorganized Georgia Southern and Florida Railway Company by the purchase of a majority of the stock. The road is now in operation from Bristol to Elizabeth, Tenn., a distance of twenty-six miles and it will be extended to Asheville, N. C.

One of the victims of the heat in Washington on Monday was James Tilton, son of the late commander Edwin G. Tilton, U. S. N.

## OLNEY SECRETARY OF STATE.

Judson Harmon, an Eminent Ohio Lawyer, Becomes Attorney General.

On Friday afternoon the following appointments were announced from the White House: Secretary of State, Richard Olney, of Massachusetts; Attorney General, Judson Harmon, of Ohio.

Mr. Harmon is a man about 50 years of age, possibly a few years over that number, and a resident of Cincinnati. His name had not been used in the gossip about the succession to Mr. Olney, except possibly in private. For some years he was judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton county, and upon the removal of ex-Governor Hoadley to New York he became the head of the law firm with which the latter has been connected. He is said to be one of the foremost lawyers of the Central States.

**THE ADVANCE IN PRICES.**  
This is the Feature of the Week According to Bradstreet's.

Bradstreet's Commercial report says that the speculative spirit which seemed to dominate both commercial and financial circles until a week or ten days past is still less conspicuous in all lines. While business throughout the country may be characterized as a quiet raw, the tone of staple markets continues firm and confidence in a good demand when the fall season opens next month remains unabated.

The feature of the week, as heretofore, is the continued low list of agricultural products, notably those in iron and steel, and the upward movement of bank clearings. Higher prices are recorded for some cotton goods, shoes, hides, leather, paper, pig iron, steel galvanized iron, black sheets, canned goods, hogs, wheat, corn, oats and some grades of flour. Prices on live stock, wool, corn and lumber are reported unchanged and firm, with silver, cotton petroleum and lard alone noteworthy as showing lower prices than last week.

Southern cities in most instances report trade and collections fair, with no special features recorded for the week. A gain in demand is reported from Atlanta and New Orleans, where collections are also better. An improved condition of business prevails at New Orleans.

## FOR FREE SILVER.

THE ILLINOIS CONVENTION.

Platform Adopted—Judge Samuel P. McConnell's Speech.

The Illinois Democratic Silver Convention met at Springfield on Wednesday. Secretary of State Heinrichsen, by virtue of his office, chairman of the Democratic State central committee, called the meeting to order. Temporary Chairman Crawford said he would not delay the proceedings of the convention by making a speech. He would, however, say that the eyes of the whole country were on this convention. Let its action be understood, one, set it at rest about the bush, nor mince matters, but declare unconditionally for gold or for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1.

After disposing of routine business the following platform adopted: 'Whereas, silver and gold have been the principle money metals of the world for thousands of years and silver money recognized and used in almost all civilized nations notwithstanding the varying ratios between silver and gold, and

'Whereas, the demonetization of silver has been a failure, and the use of the benefits of an invaluable and original money metal, and has increased debts and added to the burdens of the people by lowering the value of their property, and

'Whereas, the constitution of the United States prohibits the use of anything but gold and silver coin as legal tender for the payment of debts, and the Democratic party, composed of silver and gold is honest money and fit to be used as a legal tender, therefore, we, the people of Illinois, in convention assembled, be it

'Resolved, That we are in favor of the use of both gold and silver as the standard of value in the United States, and that we demand the free and unlimited coinage of both metals at the ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for the action of any other nation, and that such coin shall be a legal tender for all debts, both public and private, and that all contracts hereafter executed for the payment of money, whether in gold, silver or coin, may be paid by any money which is by law a legal tender.

'We hereby endorse the action of the Democratic State central committee in calling this convention, and we instruct the committee to carry out the will of this convention as expressed in its platform by inaugurating a campaign for the free and unlimited coinage of both metals at the ratio of 16 to 1, and to thoroughly organize the Democracy of the State on the lines laid down in the platform of this convention.

## FOREIGNERS AT THE FAIR.

The Regulations for the Admission of Skilled Workmen and for their Return.

Acting Secretary Wilco, of the national treasury, has issued a circular prescribing the regulations in this country for the employment of exhibitors at the Cotton States and International Exposition at Atlanta.

Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the foreign exhibitors at the Atlanta Exposition to bring to this country foreign laborers from their respective countries for the purpose of preparing for and making their exhibits. Regulations were issued under this Act to collectors of customs and commissioners of immigration to require the issuance of certificates to each person so landed, and it further provided that in one year after the close of said Exposition the commissioners of immigration and collectors of customs who have issued such certificates will report to the treasury department the number issued, the country from which they were given, the name, as failed to surrender his or her certificate and depart from the country, and in case any such holder depart from a port other than that at which he or she entered the commissioner or collector to whom the certificate may be surrendered will transmit the same without delay to the officer who issued it or his successor.

**Cotton Crop Statement.**  
The New Orleans Cotton Exchange statement is as follows: Secretary Hester has just issued a statement of the Texas cotton crop and movements from the Gulf and Atlantic States, showing a total deliveries from the State of Texas for the first nine months of the season to the close of May, inclusive, of 3,182,260 bales, against 2,778,884 bales for the same time last season, making a net increase of 1,213,376. The deliveries at the Texas seaboard show an increase of 643,771 bales; shipments via Cairo and St. Louis 143,896; to New Orleans 499,900 and railroad shipments to Mexico 90,774. While the shipments from the Texas seaboard show an increase of 13,174 bales, Secretary Hester says that the deliveries from the State of Texas from and after May 31 last year were 82,176 bales, the cotton crop of Texas last year having been 2,959,933 bales.

Hester has also issued a statement giving an analysis of the movement of cotton into sight, dividing the cotton belt into three groups, viz: First, Texas and Indian Territory; second, other Gulf States, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee; third, Atlantic States, embracing North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama. The total cotton crop brought into sight for the first nine months of the season to the close of May, inclusive, as follows: Texas, 3,182,260 bales, against 2,778,884 bales in 1894; other Gulf States, 2,794,676 bales, against 2,129,818 in 1894; and 1,770,486 in 1893; Atlantic States, 2,540,833 bales, against 2,374,021 in 1894, and 2,983,133 in 1893. The statement does not divide Texas and other Gulf States for 1892, but 2,935,000 crop year, as there were no separate monthly figures made up for Texas in that year, but it gives the following comparisons between this year and 1892: Texas and other Gulf States together this year 5,976,936 bales, against 5,173,004 in 1892. Atlantic States, this year 2,540,833, against 2,374,021 in 1892. Excess compared with 1892 703,932 bales, against 803,000 in 1892.

**He Got the Pass.**  
An application for an annual pass was made to Commodore Vanderbilt by the president of a road about twenty-five miles long. 'Your road doesn't seem to cover a great amount of territory,' suggested the Commodore to the applicant. 'No, sir,' said the applicant, 'it isn't quite so long as the New York Central; but by gracious, Mr. Vanderbilt, it's just as wide!' The pass was issued.—New York Tribune.

**Fifty Killed and All Bridges Gone.**  
Telegrams received at Stuttgart from the Black Forest district of Wurtemberg, which was deluged by a cloud burst and inundated by the consequent overflow of the river Eyach, Wednesday night, state that 10 persons were killed in Balzger district and all of the bridges spanning the river were carried away.

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