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BERTHINE'S CAPTIVES.

Nothing was to be heard in the forest save the rustling of the snow falling upon the cedars as it had been falling since midday, a fine, powdery snow that spread upon the branches a frozen moss, upon the fir a coating of silver and upon the rocks and pathways an immense carpet, soft and white, and which intensified the stiffness of this sea of trees.

Before the door of a forsaken hut a young woman with her clothes rolled up to the elbows was cutting wood with an ax upon a stone. Tall, supple and strong, she was a true daughter of the forest and the child and wife of a forester. Suddenly a voice came from the interior of the house.

"We are alone this evening, Berthine; come in and make everything fast. There may be Prussians as well as wolves in the forest to-night."

"I do not like it, Berthine," said she; "when your father is from home, two women are not strong."

"But I am not afraid," the girl responded. "I can defend myself against a wolf or a Prussian all the same," and she glanced significantly at a huge revolver suspended above the chimney place.

her spinning, and nothing was heard in the room but the light whirring of the rolling wheel and the bubbling of the water in the pot.

"You can stretch yourselves by the fire, if you like," said the forester, kindly. "Mother and I will climb to the upper floor."

"It is the French," she cried, "at least a hundred of them! For the love of God, go into the cellar and make no noise; if you do, we are lost!"

"I will tell you," the officer stammered, bewildered and excited, "but how can we get down?"

"Yes, I," he returned, "I am sent in advance to see if anything has changed since my departure."

"No," she responded, "all is the same." Pichon, placing a whistle to his lips, sent forth into the night a long, shrill blast, and soon in the mist rising beneath the trees Berthine saw the figures of a band of men, the advance guard of the arriving troops.

"But don't pass before the vent hole!" Pichon shouted, as the men appeared; and "Don't pass before the vent hole!" solemnly repeated the soldiers in those behind. "His wrath the whole troop was visible to the young woman, a hundred strong, each man carrying in his belt 200 cartridges, and led by Lavigne himself.

"I must tell you that Matheson was the baker of Rether, an enormously fat man, whose inflated stomach, big as an ordinary balloon, furnished unending merriment for his frolicsome comrades.

"The Prussians can stand a great deal," cried M. Lavigne with a beaming smile, "but it remains to be seen if they can stand the drink we shall give them. Pump, my boys, pump with a will, and with a wild hurrah the men obeyed.

Naturalist Clark, of Canada, says the bee's sting is by no means made for stinging only, but is used in doing the artistic work, capping the comb and infusing the formic acid, by means of which honey receives its keeping qualities.

A Clock That Beats All Others. Another great clock has been added to the horological wonders of the world—a piece of mechanism that will vibrate the elaborate marvel of Strassburg, and put the processional curiosity of Bernese Tower into the shade.

"Hungry Joes" of Society. I wish somebody who could would tell me what special fascination there is in a massive lunch, with tea or coffee for people who spend hundreds of dollars a week to run their home tables; that even the wealthiest and best folks in society will pull and push and almost tear each other's clothes off to get a cup of poor tea, or a thin ham sandwich, or a hot dozen raw oysters, or a sacrifice of self respect and all the usual courtesies due from one individual to another on such occasions for this modicum of refreshment? It may seem ridiculous, but it is nevertheless true, that some ladies have fasted for forty-eight hours to get their appetites in trim for an afternoon tea or an evening entertainment where they expected a particularly good table.

Treatment of a "Stye." There is a row of small glands, which discharge oily material for lubricating purposes along the edge of each eyelid. Whenever the outlet of one of these glands becomes closed, inflammation begins and a "stye" is the result. These are troublesome, sometimes painful.

National Tunes in France. Gen. Boulanger has supplied the bands of the French army with a complete collection of the national music of all countries. When the emperor of Brazil visited Paris some years ago considerable difficulty was experienced in hunting up the national anthem of Brazil, and it is to guard against similar trouble that the great war minister has armed the buglers with the material in question.

The Honey Bee's Sting. Naturalist Clark, of Canada, says the bee's sting is by no means made for stinging only, but is used in doing the artistic work, capping the comb and infusing the formic acid, by means of which honey receives its keeping qualities.

EXECUTION OF WOMEN. Methods of Capital Punishment in Olden Times—Various Laws. In the early days of England men were not humane to execute women, but they drowned them. During the reign of Henry III, however, a woman was hanged, but as she did not die after being on the gibbet for a day, they cut her down and she was granted a pardon.

Disenchanted Montana Boys. Most of the cowboys looked upon their coming to Montana to lead a life of the mistakes of their lives. The glowing stories of thrilling adventures and sudden wealth of the cowboys' life which are common in the east are in most cases responsible for their entering the guild, but the reality is quite a different matter.

Mrs. Langtry's Body Servant. Two years ago, when the Jersey Lily visited San Francisco, her attention was directed to a bright-eyed, native of Canton, by name Wong Afoo. She thought that it would be a surprise to her New York and British friends if she possessed, among her other peculiar treasures, a Chinese body servant.

The Westerner and the Duke. A tall, fine looking man, clad in the garb of a westerner, stood on the fifth avenue hotel, New York, the other night. A duke clad in a dress suit started at him as if he were a wild beast. The westerner started back for a moment until he had looked the duke out of countenance, and then walked over to the young duke and said in a murmuring voice: "Well, what is it?" "What is what?" asked the duke, frowning red.

The dome of the United States Capitol is 287 1/2 feet high. The weight of the iron alone in the dome of the Capitol is 3,000,000 pounds.

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