

A \$20,000,000 FRAUD.

That Is What the Bridal Package in the Government Treasury Is Declared to Be.

"I hate to shatter a pet delusion by giving the facts in the case," said a former clerk in the treasury department at Washington, "but fraud ought to be exposed regardless of consequences, and the greatest fraud I know of is the famous 'bridal package' of the treasury vaults.

"I say famous, but it isn't famous in a general sense. It is famous only among bridal couples. I don't know how it is, but every bridal couple that go to Washington on their wedding tour—and it seems to me that about nine-tenths of the bridal couples of the country go to Washington—know all about that package, and the bride can't rest until she goes through the regular routine connected with it. No visit to Washington by a stranger is complete without an inspection of the treasury vaults, but if his or her visit is a non-bridal one the fraud of the package isn't played.

"I don't know who it was in the department that first imposed it on a bridal pair, but it went, and it grows in popularity every year. When the couple enter the vault, the man in charge, after a few preliminary and perfunctory remarks, reaches up on a shelf, takes down a package of notes, and tells the bride to take it in her hand, if she hasn't asked for it the very first thing. He then tells her that the package contains \$20,000,000 in treasury notes, all in denomination of \$10,000 each. The bride is delighted, of course, and when she goes back home she talks for weeks about having held \$20,000,000 in her hand all at one time. The bridegroom can't resist enjoying that same pleasure, and he fondles the package awhile, and the pair go away blissful over the experience, while the treasury vault man tosses the package back on the shelf and chuckles.

"Now this is all simply a gigantic fraud on the young people. The treasury at Washington does not hold that amount of money. The bulk of the government money is at the subtreasury in this city. That 'bridal package' is a gay deceiver. It does contain notes to the amount of \$20,000,000, of the denomination of \$10,000 each, but they're not money, because they're not signed. So instead of having held in their hands \$20,000,000 the happy couple have fondled simply a package that represented no more value than the price of the paper and the printing on it. It may be cruel to shatter this pretty delusion, but my conscience forbids me to carry the burden of its concealment any longer; hence these facts."—New York Sun.

A Workman and His Work.

The wife of a friend of mine is the possessor of a thin gold watch chain. It is something after the pattern of a cable. Each link is finely finished, and the workmanship is that of an artist. In examining it closely one would even think that the person who made it was in love with his work. It is a mechanical masterpiece. My friend made it a gift to his wife about 15 years ago, and it is not only highly prized by her on that account, but also because of its design and finish. A week or two ago one of the links broke.

"I will get that fixed for you all right," said my friend. "I know just the man to take it to. He is not a jeweler, but a machinist by trade, and I would rather give a job like this to him than to a jeweler. He has a mechanical genius which runs to work of this kind."

My friend took the chain to the genius. He has a small, mean looking shop in an ancient, dilapidated building in an unlikely street down town. He examined the chain carefully and appeared to become reflective over it. Then his face lit up with a smile as he said: "I remember this chain very well. I made it 15 years ago."—Brooklyn Eagle.



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PERSONALITIES.

James Aram, one of the wealthiest men in Wisconsin, who died recently, left over \$50,000 for public charities.

King Oscar of Sweden has had the honorary degree of doctor conferred upon him by the faculty of philosophy of the University of Vienna.

The **Queen of Humanity** is the title given Miss Clara Barton by Senator Thurston at a recent meeting to help the Greek Red Cross society.

President McKinley has doffed his black silk tie to the Washington summer and appears in a remarkably high white hat of the genus stovepipe.

Edward E. Ayer of Chicago has given \$15,000 worth of valuable books to the Newberry library of that city. They were all bought abroad by Mr. Ayer.

General Lew Wallace, the popular Indiana author, has announced himself as a candidate for the United States senate. The choice will be made next year.

Baron Oscar Dickson, the Swedish banker whose liberality enabled Nordenskjöld to carry on his arctic explorations, died recently at his estate, Alumnas, aged 74 years.

There is considerable comment in England at the Canadian premier, **Wilfred Laurier**, accepting a knighthood, after repeatedly declining the honor, and contrary to precedent in the case of Canadian premiers.

The friends of **Oscar Wilde**, who was released recently from Holloway prison, have subscribed \$2,500 to enable him to make a fresh start in life. It is said that his wife will make him a small allowance from her private income.

Governor Dyer of Rhode Island said in a recent speech in Providence to the pan-American commercial travelers: "Rhode Island has a language peculiar to herself. If you listen, you will hear that language—the hum of her machinery."

Pope Leo's long life is truly miraculous if the London Daily News account of his usual dinner is correct. "His faithful valet serves him with a light vegetable soup, two fried pumpkins, a morsel of veal or fowl and half a glass of bordeaux."

A. R. Spofford, the librarian of congress, was a war correspondent during the late civil war. At one of the Bull Run battles he had for colleagues **Marat Halstead**, **Villard**, **Boytown** and **Whitelaw Reid**. He was appointed librarian by President Lincoln, and for 25 years has held the office.

So rich was the **Duc d'Aumale** that he had to make two wills in order properly to provide for the disposition of his property. One of them relates exclusively to that part of his estate which is in France, while the other deals with the wealth deposited in England, possibly from motives of precaution.

Lord Rosebery is one of the two or three Scotchmen of prominence who do not play golf. He fears that it would engross too much of his time. "When a man in middle life," he says, "makes a deliberate choice of golf as his amusement, he is making a choice second only in gravity to the choice of a wife."

FASHION'S DECREES.

Separate collars of rich fabric are worn with dressy costumes.

Parasols are profusely trimmed with lace, chiffon, silk muslin and all sorts of thin fabrics.

Gold embroidery is extremely fashionable, and passementerie, made up of metal threads, is a favorite garniture.

A dress of tan colored cloth has a bolero of white satin embroidered in gold. There are shoulder caps of the same embroidery and high flaring collar.

Tucks and ruffles are very popular, especially in thin materials. A dress of green organdie has the sleeves and waist in very narrow serpentine tucks, most ingeniously set in.

A stylish hat has a wide brim made very full, so much so that it is folded into large plaits at one side. Inside of these plaits are clusters of blossoms and fans of lace. The trimming is of ostrich plumes and velvet flowers.

A new hat is so arranged that it rests almost on the back of the head. The front of the brim is rolled back, and the space over the top of the head is filled in with fine flowers. The trimming is of ribbon loops and blossoms.

A handsome theater costume is made with a skirt of embroidery which almost covers the fabric. Indeed, only a small space near the waist is left plain. The waist is of silk shirred in full at the collar and belt. There are a wide corselet of silk and a folded collar with a frill of lace.—New York Ledger.

NOVELTIES.

The silver entree dish, with cover, converts into two open dishes by simply removing the handle.

Fern pots of electroplate are made in a variety of sizes and are admirably adapted to this purpose.

Leather purses and cardcases are in great demand again and come in the colors so fashionable in dress goods this season—namely, purple, green, red and white.

Crushed morocco cardcases with enameled corners in antique finish represent a recent style, but cases in lizard, snake and monkey skin are also fashionable.

Championed by a Dog.

Several years ago in Wisconsin, before the Indian had retired from the neighborhood of the white man, a mother and her little girl were alone in their cottage on the edge of a great forest. Everything seemed peaceful, and there was no thought of danger. The mother sat inside the door sewing, while the child was in the bright sunshine playing. Their large black dog Cuff was the only other member of the family. Suddenly half a dozen Indians fresh from a recent raid on whisky stood in the doorway and demanded more whisky. The lady had no whisky, but offered them food and drink. The Indians, however, were drunk, and before the mother could interfere the roughest seized the little girl and was making off with her when the dog, which had wandered away a short distance, came bounding back. In an instant he had the savage by the throat and threw him to the ground. The others, having no firearms, beat a hasty retreat. The dog kept a tight grip on the Indian until they had all gone, then released him, and he also departed.—Our Dumb Animals.

Good Manners and Quick Wit.

The little viscount is receiving a few friends in his bachelor quarters. Among them is Boireau.

The latter, having allowed his cigar to go out, throws it without ceremony on the carpet. In order to give him a lesson in good manners the little viscount stoops to pick it up, but Boireau, feigning to misunderstand his intention, interposes:

"Oh, leave the butt, my dear fellow. Take a fresh cigar."

And he hands him the box.—Paris Figaro.

Shirt Signs.

"In Brooklyn the other day," said a resident of Manhattan borough, "I saw in the window of a furnishing goods store this sign: 'Shirt Constructor.' There is a furnishing goods store in New York that displays, among other signs, one marked 'Shirter.' There used to be another furnishing goods store in this city with a sign reading, as I remember it, 'Shirt Builder,' but 'Shirt Constructor' is new as far as I know."—New York Sun.

A fancy dress ball is given once a year by the lady artists, sculptors, singers and actresses of Berlin. No males are permitted at this ball, and about one-third of the attendants go in masculine costume.

The yield of wheat in France, owing to the careful cultivation of the soil and the large quantity of guano and other fertilizers employed, is 17 bushels per acre.



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