

the Gericaults had closed their end. The Healds thereupon closed theirs, and the business was not resumed until 1815. It was then carried on again with more or less activity until the present narrator, Fleetwood Heald, who had for some time been a member of the banking firm, succeeded by seniority to the secret.

His first and immediate act was to destroy the Dover entrance to the tunnel by blowing the chalk into it with gunpowder, at the same time notifying the Gericaults that it must no more be used. Mr. Heald, however, said that it would be easy to open the tunnel again. He gave the Secretary a chart and profile of it, and explained all the courses and bearings.

I have myself seen a small sketch of the profile, which resembles somewhat those of the grotto of Adelsperg. A geologist who has been consulted on the subject, and has taken extreme interest in it, seems to think it probable that in the early period, when Dover was still united to Calais, these caves through the chalk were occupied by the cave bears, and perhaps by men also, and were probably of much greater extent than at present. He believes that the fissures in the chalk will be found to reach on the English side of the channel far beyond the Isle of Wight, and inland many miles, while on the French coast they should be traced as far as the mouth of the Somme. He thinks there may be found more than one fissure leading nearly if not quite under the straits from shore to shore. If this be so, the construction of the submarine railway, thus shown to be feasible, will be comparatively cheap. In the profile the estimated variations of level aggregate some 900 feet, and are in some places almost abrupt. Doubtless the Gericaults and Healds had much work to do to make the route practicable to their donkeys. The widest part of the tunnel is said to be over 100 feet horizontally and nearly as much in height. Its narrowest is about twelve feet.

NAPOLÉON'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE TUNNEL.

When the facts which I have outlined were communicated to the French Ministry, they were anxious to know if Heald could give them the name of the French officer, and the date of his transit. This he could not do, but there were papers to show that he made the passage with Francois de Gericault, second son of Balthazar de Gericault. The French Board of Public Works then transmitted to Mr. Cross a very curious *aide memoire*, which had been handed to the Commission by M. Pougeret Glaucin, member of the Assembly from Grenoble, and who is understood to have been the author of the project de loi under which the commission was appointed. The facts upon which this document was based had been derived from M. Gambetta, who had recovered them from the private papers of the Emperor Napoleon III., seized at the time of Sedan, after the flight of the Empress.

The envelope in which these letters were inclosed contained an endorsement in the Emperor's own hand: "Received from Queen Hortense, who had them from General Bertrand." They were also accompanied by a report to the Emperor from M. Pietri: "Have thoroughly examined into the matter, but can find no clue. Am persuaded that Colonel Leblanc lied to get himself employed, but his death was suspicious." On this was endorsed, also in the Emperor's hand, "Showed to M. Schneider. He pronounced it an *vrai* hombug.

The first of these papers was a report to the Emperor Napoleon I (then First Consul), upon the death of one Col. Leblanc,

said to be implicated in the famous conspiracy of General Pichegru and George Cadoudal, which ended in the death of Duc d'Angoulême. Leblanc was an umpire, who had, however, served, like Pichegru, in Flanders. He was known to be a conspirator with Pichegru, and to have associated with Georges. Arrested in Paris at the same time with these men, he was tried and sentenced to be shot as a deserter from the army. Two days before his intended execution he managed to get a scrap of paper to the First Consul, on which was written:—"Six weeks ago I crossed from England to France by land, dry shod. The revelation of the route for the invasion of Albion by land is the price I will pay for liberty and pardon."

NAPOLÉON CONVINCED

Leblanc was taken from prison and had an interview with the First Consul. What he told has not transpired, but he certainly must have convinced Napoleon of the truth of his story. He was enlarged, and two days later was assassinated in the streets of Paris. A man of the name of Francois de Gericault was known to have been in Leblanc's company, and was arrested and detained a long while on suspicion of complicity in his death; but nothing was ever discovered to connect him with the crime and the fact that he was a secret agent of the French Government for procuring early intelligence from England weighed in his favour.

At the time when Napoleon was at Boulogne preparing for the invasion of England he wrote to a major of engineers (this was also among the papers). "I have proof that smugglers pass sometimes from shore to shore of the channel by some underground means. Seek a solution of the problem, without attracting attention to your operators." The engineer's report, also accompanying, was to the effect that smugglers descended the cliff on either shore through caves, and then embarked their goods in inconspicuous boats. The emperor had endorsed on this: "Not satisfactory. I am sure Leblanc went by a tunnel." Another engineer was ordered, under pretence of fortifications, to excavate the chalk in deep trenches from Boulogne to Calais, but this work was suspended by the Ulm campaign, and never resumed.

A note of General Bertrand's accompanying the papers, stated that Leblanc's communication was one day the subject of an after dinner talk at St. Helena, when Napoleon asserted his belief in a secret passage, which, if it did exist, Dr. Antommarchi contended, must firstly be from the cliffs of the Cotentin to the Island of Alderney. To this Napoleon said: "Perhaps. However, keep these papers for my son."

It is only in the most accidental way that I have come upon all these curious circumstances, which, of course, are among the dead secrets of the Foreign Office and the French Ministry. I am not able to say if any progress has been made in opening the old tunnel and verifying the disclosures of Mr. Fleetwood Heald.

The Late War in the Malay Peninsula.

Surgeon Major W. Collis, of the 3rd Buffs, has presented a very interesting collection of weapons and projectiles from the late war in the Malay Peninsula, to the Museum at Netley. The weapons consist of Malay spears, swords, kreases, and knives of various forms. The spears are generally about six feet in length, with blades fifteen inches in length, of highly tempered steel,

and with very sharp points and edges. The shafts are in some instances finished with ornamented silver ferrules. The Malay sword is peculiar in being broader at the extremity, where European swords are always pointed, than at any other part of the blade. It is two inches and a quarter broad at the end, but only three-quarters of an inch broad near the handle. This difference in width is, however, counterbalanced by increased thickness of the blade as the handle is approached. A jungle knife, sent with the weapons, but used generally for cutting jungle paths, has the same general characters. The Malay kreases, which are formidable weapons for close combat, are well known, and the specimens sent by Dr. Collis are of the usual patterns as regards alike their blades, scabbards, and handles. They are quite peculiar to the Malays. All the weapons and knives above-mentioned were taken in action at Kota Lima, on the right bank of the Perak River, on the 4th of January last. The collection includes some iron gungall balls, musket balls, and an old flint-lock musket which was dropped by a Malay in the jungle. The lock shows that it is of English manufacture, as it is stamped with the crown, the letters "G. R.," and the word "Power." A box fitted with a sliding horn lid has been cut in the butt of the firelock for the purpose of holding bullets. Six bullets had been left in the box. Like all the Malay bullets, they are made of tin, cast in a mould, and apparently to make up for the lightness of their weight, or it may be with the idea of aggravating the condition of a wound caused by the bullet, small bits of stone, sometimes transparent like glass, are embedded in them. It is probable that these fragments are put into the mould before the melted tin is poured into it. It is understood that while tin is found plentifully in the Malay Peninsula, lead has not been discovered there. In addition to the weapons and projectiles just described, Dr. Collis has forwarded a variety of miscellaneous articles illustrative of the habits of the Malays, which add to the interest of the collection. —*Lancel.*

The Smallest of the Girls.

LUCIA ZARATE BEFORE THE WONDERING PHYSICIANS - HALF THE SIZE OF TOM THUMB.

A large number of physicians went to Tony Pastor's Theatre yesterday to see the Mexican dwarf, Lucia Zarate. They measured her, and ascertained her height to be twenty one inches, her feet three inches long, her legs below the knee four inches in circumference, and her hands an inch and a quarter broad. Her mother, who is robust and of a medium size, says that Lucia is twelve years old. Her face is older than that. Her features are Spanish, and her complexion dark. Her acuity is incessant. She played pranks with the physicians and talked fast in Spanish. She stepped into a high silk hat, trampled down and was out of sight excepting her head. She squeezed one of her pliable little hands through a rather large finger ring. The hand of an adult made an ample seat for her. Standing on a chair, and holding to the back of it, her fingers stuck through the spaces in the casework—holes that just admitted the passage of a small penholder. She was not weighed, but her weight is said to be five pounds, and, poised in the hand, she does not seem heavier. Her clothing is comically small, as though intended for a doll, the shoes and stockings especially being toylife.