

FINE MYTH THE "BLACK HAND."

An Imaginative Reporter Brought it to New York.

(New York Sun.)

During the recent outbreak of Italian blackmailing in New York a great deal has been written about the "Black Hand." This is supposed to be a mystic order of Italian criminals, banded together to do violence. The terrible "Black Hand" according to the red ink extras, instigated the Elizabeth street dynamiting and the Croton hold-ups and the Marino kidnapping. It is supposed to be a terrible organization and in popular fancy has quite driven out the Mafia, to which most Italian crime used to be attributed.

As a matter of fact, a "Black Hand" organization never existed anywhere. There was a fiction that such an order did business in Spain, but never in Italy. Its importation to New York is due to the lively fancy of a reporter who had an interesting Italian crime to write about and needed a few extra frills. And the fiction grew.

The history of the alleged "Black Hand" society in Spain has to do with the Spanish police and their peculiar system of graft. All the facts about it came out something like a year ago when certain friends of justice in Paris and London, notably Socialist members in the French Chamber of Deputies, tried to secure the release of three Spanish life term prisoners.

In 1874 there was great social and political unrest in Spain. Alfonso XII had just made his coup d'état and squashed the republic. His repressive measures were very severe and especially was Andalusia hit hard. That province had been almost ruined by indolent and corrupt landholders under the old regime. Then came the republic with its bright hopes, and then this period of persecution for petty offences.

The laboring class became troublesome, though there is no proof that they did anything worse than protest in public meetings. Still the new powers were afraid, and Don Tomas Perez Monforte, the Governor of the province, received orders to squelch the discontented.

According to a sworn statement made by one Alvarez, a laborer, he was called before the Governor and invited to stir up the labor leaders to burn a certain vineyard. Alvarez was to notify the police so that the leaders could be caught in the act. For this he was to be well paid. Alvarez refused. Nevertheless, several vineyards were burned soon afterwards, and strange to say the police allowed the culprit red-handed. Thirty or forty of them were sent to prison for long terms, and the Governor made a great show.

Now on one of his expeditions, the police found on the wall of the vineyard, which their confederates were about to have burned, the mark of a hand left by a careless painter. Monforte seems to have conceived a brilliant idea. These crimes were being committed by a secret society of which this hand was the symbol. So the "Black Hand" sprang into existence. To bolster up the notion, Monforte declared that he had found the oath and constitution of the society. The oath was terrible, and the constitution bound its members to commit awful crimes. Monforte never showed this constitution.

Monforte made good in stopping the mouths of Andalusian workmen, and the "Black Hand" fiction lived after him. It has since become very convenient for the Spanish police. Whenever they find a very mysterious and atrocious crime, the "Black Hand" is especially true when the suspects are hold liberal views. In 1882, for example, Manuel Garcia murdered his cousin Bartholomew Campos. On the surface, it was a plain fight over a woman. Yet the police found that they were both Republicans and members of labor unions. Campos, the victim, had been expelled from his union for use of a bludgeon with the wife of a member.

By a process not unknown in New York, the police traced the crime back to the "Black Hand." They arrested 100 workmen and garroted seven as conspirators. Six more were sentenced to long terms. Three of these, Antonio Valero, Jose Ortega and Salvador Moreno, smuggled letters out of jail telling their story. The meetings of year ago in London and Paris had as their object the release of a Spanish fugitive, worked up the history of the "Black Hand" fiction for use in this case.

The "Black Hand" probably never existed anywhere. The fiction of a "Black Hand" never existed in Sicily or anywhere else in Italy. It never existed in the United States until it was invented to color a newspaper story of an Italian crime.

Of course, in extortion cases the name "Black Hand" has been signed to actual letters sent to victims. That is perfectly true. The first "Black Hand" newspapers stories were widely read and Italian blackmailers know a good suggestion when they see it. Especially is the Italian blackmailer clever at giving all the theatrical appearances of terror to his threats. He knows that there has been a great deal about the "Black Hand" in the newspapers, and he figures that the fear of that powerful and unscrupulous organization will drive the victim into his nets. So whenever two or three Italian blackmailers pick an easy victim and sit down in a back room in Broome street to write their threatening letter, they sign it "Black Hand." There is no more organization among these people than among the American "Yegg men." They know about their kind, and they combine on a job when it seems profitable to do so. That is all.

The Mafia once had a regular organization and the Mafia myth has more reason for existence in New York. Once a mutual benefit order, the Mafia, in Italy, degenerated gradually into a system of graft, murder and crime. The Italian police broke up the organization. Doubtless there are in New York some members of the old Mafia, but there has never been the slightest proof that it exists here as an organization.

New Case for Fines

The science of entomology has not attained the limit of achievement. It has done much for which thanks. If it has done much for which thanks, it has given him trouble. And to render a mosquito uncomfortable is to be a friend to man. Science has not banished the insidious moth, but it has placed in the housewife's hand a simple potent and pungent scent which, if it is declared with care, almost any fly leave the room. Certain it is that if a man were a moth he would withdraw. But there is evidence that some moths actually play ball with moth balls, bathe themselves with sprays of eucalyptus, build their nests in cedar shavings, and eat coal nuggets wrapped in tar paper.

Science has perhaps made a master stroke in setting the Guttenman ant on the cotton weevil, and no doubt science will do a deed equally masterful in finding some thing to eat the ant.

But the greatest of entomological discoveries is one recently announced that the hornet is an enemy to the house fly. A man with any knowledge of the temperance, disposition and other qualities of the hornet will not find it difficult to believe that it is an enemy of the house fly. It is so easy for the hornet to be an enemy. So far as known the hornet does not sustain amicable relations with anything. He is always armed, is highly choleric, impetuous, quick to take offence, and as ready with his rapier as a McGregor with his claymore. The only indication of anything amicable about the hornet is that he has wings.

The house fly is extraordinarily improper in his habits, and his taste in the matter of food is, to put it softly, eccentric. Then, he has such a distressing habit of "butting in."

It is suggested that if householders instead of using screens and fly brushes, would introduce a colony of well-equipped hornets into the parlor, bed chamber, dining room and kitchen, they would soon have fewer flies and less rheumatism.

The hornet would also counteract that fired feeling, lassitude, or inclination to undue repose, which afflicts some persons. A bunch of well-fed, self-satisfied and ambitious hornets established in the home circle would probably stimulate greater activity in the family.—Washington Star.

GRAND EXCURSION TO NEW YORK CITY.

On Oct. 20, New York Central will run a grand excursion to New York City, from Suspension Bridge and Buffalo. Tickets will be good for return up to and including Oct. 29, and will admit of trip on Hudson River steamer in either or both directions between Albany and New York, without extra charge. Rate \$2.00 for the round trip. Now is the time of the year to visit the great American metropolis, theatres in full swing, and such places as Central Park at their best. Write Louis Drago, Canadian Passenger Agent, 69 1-2 Yonge street, Toronto, for full particulars.

A Tree's Sprinting Record.

A tree which grew nearly 20 feet in a year and a half has just gone from the experimental station in Santa Monica, California, to the World's Fair to show what California can do when in a hurry for a place in the shade, says the Los Angeles Times. It holds the championship long-distance tree sprinting record of the United States. It is a variety of eucalyptus. A small grove of these trees was planted on a shaggy cliff back of the experimental station where it seemed that no tree could grow at all. But the rate at which they have shot up under skillful attention almost staggers belief.

When this particular tree was about a year and a half old it measured four inches in diameter. They had to pull it up for fear it would break the Santa Monica speed ordinance. In order to get it safely to the fair the whole tree was carefully packed in mosses and soaked with oil.

Wealthiest Place in the World.

(N. Y. Scottish American.)

St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh, possesses the distinction of being the wealthiest place in the world. This may seem incredible, but it is true, nevertheless. The head offices of three large banks are there, while the Commercial Bank, the largest in Scotland, is within a stone throw of the Melville Monument. Then the Stock Exchange and the offices of all the great stock brokers adjoin the Square, and last, but not least, are the insurance companies and a host of other firms. The capital of these companies amounts to over £100,000,000. Then the numerous offices of several large joint stock companies are in the Square, and their capital amounts to several million pounds. Taking all this into consideration, St. Andrew's Square is the wealthiest in the world, and beats even Wall Street, New York.

Minard's Liniment for sale everywhere.

Doctors' Fees in England.

The specialists must be divided into two distinct classes—the surgeon proper and the pure physician. The former unquestionably gets big fees in ratio to his reputation. Sir Francis Trevelyan has been named his fee to the millionaire with appendicitis. With the fear of death before his eyes he will write his cheque gladly. When he has recovered he will often grumble, if he does not boast. A younger and less known man will perform the same operation for a tithe of the cost; but the public, with death staring them in the face, will have the man with the big name, regardless of expense.

But the pure physician is an entirely different matter. His fees are standardized, not by act of Parliament, but by that autocratic body, the Royal College of Physicians. His fees for consultation at his own house are fixed at two guineas the first visit and a guinea for each subsequent one. For consultations away from home he receives a fee at the calculated rate of two-thirds of a guinea a mile. Elsewhere, twelve miles out of town, is ipso facto eight guineas. Liverpool (201 miles) is 134 guineas, and so on pro rata. But it must be remembered that nowadays all the big provincial centres have their own specialists, and the town man is very seldom sent for unless he be one of the very biggest names and the case desperate and rich.

If the physician should accept more, he would be treated as a professional felon, "medical etiquette" and is branded a quack by his less busy brethren.

Moreover, until he arrives at a sufficient standing in the ranks of his profession, the Royal College of Physicians will not elect him to its ranks, and without this the crowning qualification and high-water mark of his calling—London Daily Mail.

Utility of Luxuriant Whiskers.

(Philadelphia Record.)

Elas Buckner, a farmer living near Delphos, Kan., has a remarkably luxuriant growth of whiskers. Recently, while working in the fields, he was swarmed by bees and settled in this growth. Mr. Buckner sat down and remained quiet. When the bees had settled down about his head, he arose, walked home, and, with the assistance of others, shaved the buzzers.

Tramp Question in a Kansas Town.

(Topeka Capital.)

The city of Coffey has 1,000 metal tickets printed and distributed among the homeless of the town. The tickets are good for one meal when counterbalanced by the city marshal. When a tramp appears at the back door and asked for a hand-out he is given one of these tickets. He then goes to the streets, and two hours' work on the streets. The tramp follows this procedure he goes hungry to bed.

Perfume Bottles

Nothing makes a more charming gift for "My lady faire" than a silver-mounted perfume bottle.

No. 4705 is a special value at \$2.00. It is of clearest crystal glass, ornamented with open pattern in sterling silver deposit.

Distance is annihilated when you order of us by mail. Catalogue sent on request.

RYRIE BROS.

"DIAMOND HALL"

118 to 124 Yonge Street TORONTO

A PLURALITY OF HUSBANDS.

In Thibet the Mormon Marriage Custom is Reversed.

The ordinary marriage customs of the Orient, says the Lady's Pictorial, are reversed in Thibet. Instead of the men having a plurality of wives, the women have the privilege of a plurality of husbands.

I was shown lately a photograph of one of these ladies, a rather pretty young woman of not more than two-and-twenty, who was the proud possessor of four husbands; she looked fairly cheerful and was—I am told—rather nice and bright in manner, and altogether quite a superior specimen of a Thibetan woman.

Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia.

Subconscious Influence.

The manager of one of the most enterprising railroad companies, says: "We are great believers in the unconscious or subconscious influence of advertising. We try to keep our route in the minds of the people so that when they are ready to take a trip they will think of this route."

Rockefeller's Floral Garden.

Nothing like it, except Gould's, on Any Private Estate.

A rose garden, which will be filled with roses, rare shrubs and foliage, is now being laid out at Pocantico hills at a cost of \$50,000, according to the Chicago Chronicle. The plans of the gardens—there really are three gardens, connected by a terrace and old stone steps—were drawn by John D. Rockefeller, jun., for acts fashions after ideas furnished by the latter and when they are completed there will be nothing like them on any private estate in the country, with the possible exception of those on George J. Gould's Georgian court. All of the servants have been instructed to give out no information concerning the new mansion on Kybunt Mountain, and even the lips of the stable help are sealed.

ENGLAND'S FRIEND OF CATS.

Lady Marcus Beresford's Princely Home for Her Felines.

Lady Marcus Beresford, who founded England's Cat Club, is said to have the best catery known, and it contains over a hundred and fifty felines. She has, of course, the choicest breeds, rare Persians, chinchillas with their bushy tails, and Manx cats without any tails whatever. She has a cat cottage, where every provision is made for comfort and cleanliness, ventilation and warmth. In this cottage is a room for the woman who cares for the cats, and there is a little kitchen in which the meals are prepared for them. The food is served in bowls and on plates enameled white, and these, when not in use, are ranged in racks fastened to the walls. The menu of the cats is by no means restricted, and during the summer vegetables are served with their meat, which is often minced. Fish and rice are another dish. Swiss milk is served in abundance, and milk from goats kept on the premises is fed to delicate kittens.

Another of her cattries is covered with rose vines and has three rooms provided with shelves and many things for the amusement of the animals. Each Thomas cat has his own sleeping space, closed in with wire opening on a large grass plot, where he exercises daily in solitary state, it being the rule that two Thomas cats be not allowed to meet for fear of a repetition of the famous Kilkenny fracas.

THE POSTMASTER IS THANKFUL

Dodd's Kidney Pills Enabled Him to Sleep in Peace.

Grand Work They are Doing for Tabernacle, Cumberland Canal, N. B. Oct. 3.—(Special)—Mr. B. J. Lee, postmaster here, is one of the great army of Canadians who rescued from pain and weakness by Dodd's Kidney Pills, are stoutly the praisers of the great Kidney Remedy.

"Yes," the postmaster says: "I want to express my thankfulness for the great benefit I have received from the use of Dodd's Kidney Pills."

"My trouble was having to urinate too freely. I had to rise eight or ten times each night so that my rest was broken. My feet and legs also swelled. Then I got Dodd's Kidney Pills and I took six boxes all told. Now I am all right."

"It will be a comfort to me if by making my case public I can lead other sufferers to find relief in Dodd's Kidney Pills."

Dodd's Kidney Pills always cure Bright's Disease. They also annually bring relief to hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are bothered with earlier kidney troubles.

Life is a constant struggle between regret for the past and hope for the future.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

The Duties of the National Campaign Chairman are Onerous.

The relations of the national campaign chairman to the presidential candidates are especially the most intimate sort. The chairman is naturally given free rein, and though he often pays close heed to what his chief wants, as often as not he has to oppose his principal's plans. He has to edit the candidate's letters and speeches; and gooseflesh comes out on him every morning as he picks up the newspaper, for fear that some unfortunate speech has been uttered, an indiscreet letter sent, some ancient sentiment unearthed, or some other "blatant" made. It has happened so often that the fear of such a thing is ever before him.

After the "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion" speech of Burchard, in 1884, the Republican national committee spent fortunes telegraphing to party newspapers all over the country extracts from Blaine's speeches, in which he had to often expressed himself in favor of religious liberty. It was in vain. That error was never corrected. Religious prejudice is very strong, and the use which the Democratic managers made of the speech was far more effective than all the efforts to correct the false position into which the candidate is placed. Since that occasion no candidate is addressed by a delegation without submitting his remarks to a committee. Usually the candidates must write out what they intend to say on any occasion, and it is gone over with a microscope. Benjamin Harrison was so afraid of being entrapped that in his first campaign he had a hall hired at Indianapolis, where all delegations came. There were no people on platform, and he would emerge from the wings, make a few remarks, and retire. This course was taken at the suggestion of Quay.—Joseph M. Rogers, in Booklovers Magazine.

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SUNLIGHT SOAP REDUCES EXPENSE.

\$5,000 Reward will be paid by Lever Brothers Limited, Toronto, to any person who can prove that this soap contains any form of adulteration whatsoever, or contains any injurious chemicals.

Ask for the Octagon Mark.

THE JAPS IN WAR.

A Japanese Officer on the Value of His Men.

"I saw two soldiers who were pretty badly shot, one of them had at least three bullet wounds. The only thought of these men seemed to be to conceal their wounds. They hurried into the thick of the fray—and upon them was that thieving air which you sometimes catch in a bad boy or a man who is bound—the air which seemed so ill at ease on the face of a Nippon soldier, and so striking, too, because so rare. They were frightened, these fellows, who laughed in the face of death, lest they might be caught by the hospital corps. At first the officers so lightly took the trouble in telling those wounded to look after themselves a little more carefully, but they met a blank wall whenever they said that word."

There was a fellow to the right of me somewhat upset, and he was also pushed ahead. Suddenly he turned a somersault in the stream; the stream brought him down rather fast. I was waiting, and he gained his feet almost in front of me. He seemed to be dazed for a fraction of a second, but he was not. He raised his hand to his forehead, from which blood was dripping. It was very forehead, and he struck his finger into the water. He dug his fingers into the bullet hole, and he stuck his finger into the hole and took out the bullet. He looked at it curiously for about a tenth of a second and put it into his pocket, and rushed straight ahead.—From an account of the Battle of the Yalu, taken from Leslie's Monthly Magazine, by a Japanese officer in command of a brigade.

ENGLISH SPAVIN LINIMENT

Removes all hard, soft or calloused lumps and blemishes from horses, blood spavin, curbs, splints, ringbones, swellings, sprains, curbs, sore and swollen throat, coughs, etc. Save \$50 by the use of one bottle. Waranted the most wonderful Blemish Cure ever known.

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Minard's Liniment Cures Buras, etc.

How the Frenchman Read His Book.

A curious way to read a book was what I saw the other day coming up from New Orleans," said J. T. Simpson, of Chicago, to an Atlanta Constitution reporter.

"It was in a Pullman sleeping car, and we had a pretty good crowd of north-bound tourists. Among them was a queer-looking Frenchman, at least, I judged he was such. On his seat I noticed a dozen paper-back novels. Shortly after breakfast he began reading one of these at the open window by his seat. As soon as he finished a page he tore it off neatly and threw it out of the window. The books were all in French, and before we got to Atlanta he had read three and scattered the French printed pages for hundreds of miles."

ISSUE NO. 42 1904.

Mrs. Whalow's Soothing Syrup should be used for Children's teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, curbs wind colic and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea.

FOR SALE, GLOBE HOTEL IN THE village of Hillsdale; with license, furniture, stock, etc. proprietor retiring from business; bargain if sold right away; terms made suitable to purchaser. Apply to J. Cockedge, Hillsdale, Ont.

FOR SALE, SEVENTY ACRES FRUIT and garden land, buildings, 1 mile east of Hamilton, S. W. Freeman, Bartonville.

CHOICE FARM PROPERTIES FROM TEN to four hundred acres each, for sale; in all parts of Canada; write for catalogue. Intercolonial Realty Co., Limited, London.

WE PAY A GOOD SALARY

to ladies and gentlemen. Permanent position, rapid advancement, good salary and expenses. Clean, desirable business. Write the J. L. Nelson Co., Limited, Toronto.

YOUR FORTUNE TOLD FROM THE CRAFTS of the grave, matters of business, love and marriage made clear; what I tell comes true; send birth date and sex. PROF. GARNOT, Box 25, Hochelaga P. O., Montreal, Canada.

Hamilton-Toronto-Montreal Line

Steamers leave Hamilton at 1 p.m., Toronto 7.30 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Fail Excursion

Hamilton to Montreal, single \$7.00, return \$12.00. Toronto to Montreal, single \$6.50, return \$11.00. Low rates between ports.

Further information apply to R. & O. agents, or write to H. FOSTER CHAPPEL, Western Passenger Agent, Toronto.

RATS AS POISON IMMUNES.

Not Susceptible to Large Doses, But Succumb to Small Ones.

In destroying rats by poison a paradoxical susceptibility has been noted. When you want to kill a man by poison you give him a big dose, while if you give him a small quantity daily the whole may be eliminated without fatal effects. On the other hand, it has been determined that rats have a peculiar resistance to arsenical poisoning when given in large doses, while frequently they were destroyed by small doses before the total quantity had reached an amount equal to single doses that were successfully withheld.

CATARRH CANNOT BE CURED

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hail's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hail's Catarrh Cure is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best medicines known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, price 75c. Take Hail's Family Pills for constipation.

The Peril of Yellow Boots.

Times have changed since the days when it was absolutely unsafe in Paris to speak of Russians except in terms of the highest respect. The London Sketch says they are telling a story on the boulevards about a huge Russian who went into a shop and asked for a pair of black boots. The Russian was such a big man that there was hardly a pair in the shop large enough for him, so at last the shopman said: "Would you like a pair of yellow boots, sir?" Thinking that he was being insulted by a reference to the "yellow" Japanese, the Russian bolted out of the shop, much to the consternation of the shopman, who could not imagine in what way he had offended his customer.

The Backache Staze may be just that insipid form of kidney disease which, if neglected, will develop into stubborn and distressing disorder that will take long, tedious treatment to cure. Do not neglect the "backache stage" of the most insidious of diseases. South American Kidney Cure stops the ache in six hours and cures—30.

Chicago's Typical Girl.

Height 5 feet 6 inches
Weight 113 pounds
Age 20 years
Complexion Fair and clear
Color of eyes Blue
Color of Hair Light brown
Eyebrows Dark and heavy
Nose Straight
Dust34 inches
Waist22 inches
Neck12 1/2 inches
Wrist7 inches
Ankle6 1/2 inches
Circumference of forearm 10 inches
Calf14 inches
Forefinger, length 3 1/2 inches
Size of shoe No. 3 1/2