

MAN WITH THE MASK

THE DISFIGUREMENT OF THE HAPPIEST MAN IN FRANCE.

How Is Known as the Man With a Wooden Head—Met His Loss In His Country's Service, and Every Year an Artist Is Sent to Paint His Face.

In a small town in the north of France lives a man unlike any other man in America or indeed this entire world. He is vigorous in body, tall and of muscular build. He has no eyes, no mouth nor nose. He has a lower jaw only and the upper part of forehead.

His name is Moreau, and he is known through all the country round about as the man with the wooden head—because it has that appearance. Really the man's head, or the front part of it, is made of platinum, shaped into the form of the features and painted so as to resemble human flesh.

It must not be supposed that this man is a freak of nature. He was born perfectly formed and grew up to robust manhood with his senses unimpaired. In fact, as a good looking young fellow when he was 20 he shouldered his gun and went out to fight for his native land.

He was in the midst of a fiercely fought battle and Moreau was one of the gunners in the line where the fire was particularly deadly. Four of his comrades had fallen at his side, and he himself had been slightly wounded. Suddenly, with a crash and great roaring in his head, he felt himself spun round eight or ten times like a top, but so curiously poised on his feet that he did not fall. He felt no pain and did not realize that he was seriously injured. It seemed to him that a ball had struck him on the head and glanced off.

After waiting an hour he saw that the fight was coming on, and gathering up his strength walked to a neighboring village, for by this time the battle had ceased. When taken to the military hospital, the surgeon who received him, accustomed as he was to horrible sights, started back with an exclamation of horror. The man's entire face had been shot away, and in place of a head there seemed to remain only a misshapen mass of red, raw flesh.

The man's case was considered hopeless, and it was believed that he would die within 24 hours. It was hoped that he would die.

Curiously enough, in spite of the shell's terrible mutilation, one eye had been left in the shattered socket, so that Moreau was able to see at first, but the hemorrhage was so great that this eye was torn away, and on the second day the man was entirely blind.

Very much to every one's surprise, the poor fellow continued to live, and on the fourth day it was decided to operate upon his head. Thirty-five pieces of shattered bone were taken from the gaping wound, some of them very large pieces. After the head had been thus treated and the cavity cleaned out it was found that Moreau's head looked like an immense hollow cup with crimson inside, and from this his voice sounded in strange intonations, somewhat like the voice of a phonograph. It did not seem to be a man at all who was talking, but some grotesque machine.

Owing to the man's marvelous constitution, he recovered entirely from his wounds, which, in course of time, healed up, leaving him with such a mutilated face as was never seen before. In fact, he had no

face, not even a forehead, and only a portion of his chin. All the rest—eyes, nose, teeth, cheek bones and flesh—had been cut away as if some one had scooped a coconut into the shape of a half moon. And yet the man was apparently in perfect health, could speak, hear and feel, and showed every inclination to eat, with a good appetite, if only some way of masticating his food could be found.

Here was a difficult case for the surgeons, and yet they made the best of it, and in a few months they had accomplished wonders. The lower jaw bone being intact, an artificial set of teeth was attached to it, raised on a bridgelike platform, and these were made to work against another set of teeth fastened across one of the ribs of a mask fashioned so as to cover the cavity. This mask was furnished with eyes, nose and lips, so as to give a certain ghastly resemblance to the human face. It was made of wax.

For 10 years Moreau wore this mask constantly, even at night, but in 1883, while visiting some friends at Valenciennes, he had a severe attack of brain fever, and in one of his delirious moments he tore off the mask and broke it in pieces. Being very poor, in fact, entirely dependent upon his scanty pension, Moreau could ill afford to have another wax mask made to replace the old one, and for a long time he suffered agonies of humiliation because he had no way of concealing his hideous disfigurement. Finally, however, a petition was made to the French government, and an artist was sent to make a platinum mask, and instructions were given that this mask be kept in repair and painted whenever it became necessary, so as to imitate as nearly as possible the human appearance.

Since then, about once a year, an artist from Paris visits the little village where Moreau lives, and with brush and pencil makes such changes in the exterior of the platinum mask as are needed, restoring eyebrows and complexion, coloring the eyes and lips and in general making the old soldier look a little more like an animated doll and a little less like some horrible specter.

In spite of his great affliction Moreau lives happily enough and is much liked by his neighbors. Strange as it may seem, he was able some years ago to persuade a comely maiden to become his wife, and she has borne him several healthy children. As is usually the case, the man's remaining senses have become much quickened since his misfortune, and he manages to earn quite a sum every year by weaving baskets and doing odd jobs with his hands in the way of mending and repairing, which people who are aware of his need send to him. His great delight is fishing, and he spends hours along the brooks and streams of Brittany, waiting for the fish to bite, and is more successful in his efforts than many sportsmen who have all their senses.—*Cleveland Moffett in New York Recorder.*

Ancient Burial Places.

In ancient times burial was always without the walls of cities and towns. Indeed before the time of Christianity it was not lawful to bury the dead within the cities, but they used to be carried out into the fields and there deposited. About the end of the sixth century St. Augustine obtained of King Ethelbert a temple of idols—used by the king before his conversion—and made a burying place of it, and St. Cuthbert afterward obtained (A. D. 752) leave from the pope to have yards made to the churches suitable for the burial of the dead.—*Westminster Gazette.*

The first coinage machine was invented by Bruchner in 1853.

A MONSTER IRRIGATOR.

The Highest Overflow Dam In the World Building In California.

Stanislaus county, Cal., is to have the highest overflow dam in the world. It is called the La Grange dam and is being constructed for the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts. Its location is in the canyon of the Tuolumne river, three miles from the town of La Grange. Work on the project was commenced in June, 1891, and has been prosecuted continuously ever since. A force of 200 men has been employed on the work, the total cost of which will be \$600,000.

The annals of engineering have hitherto recorded as the highest the Vyrnwy dam, which retains the water supply for the city of Liverpool. Its height from base to summit is 127 feet, but the La Grange will be two feet higher. Other celebrated dams, such as the Bear Valley, in San Bernardino county, and the Sweetwater, near San Diego, are properly known as reservoirs, and the protectoin of their basins as retaining walls.

The La Grange is being built by R. W. Gorrill and will be 360 feet long on top, the plan being curved on a radius of 320 feet. Its maximum height above the foundation will be 127 feet 9 inches. The front face of the wall is made to conform to the curve described by the water in overflowing, and to deflect it into the basin in front of the dam.

The dam is built of "cyclopean rubble" and is a model of solidity. Huge rocks, weighing from six to ten tons, were first laid on the bottom. All their projecting pieces were cut off, and a flat but rough surface was prepared for the lower bed. Before being placed in the bottom, all stones, whatever their size, were scrubbed and subjected to the action of numerous jets of water under pressure of 75 feet.

The process of construction was as follows:

"A level bed was first prepared in the rock and covered with a two inch layer of cement mortar, which was beaten to free it of air. A large stone was then lowered into position by a steam crane, and was beaten down into the mortar by blows from heavy handmauls. Other large stones were similarly placed, but so as not to touch each other. The spaces left between them were filled with concrete, which was thrust into the narrow spaces with tampers.

"The work within the reach of each crane was brought up from six to eight feet before the crane was moved. In each course the immense stones were laid so as to bind with those in the course below. No horizontal joints passed through the wall, as the top of each course was left with projecting stones and hollows, which permit it to be well bound with the next course. To make the back face thoroughly water tight, the vertical joints were filled with mortar alone, and into this broken stone was forced."

The La Grange dam will distribute water over a territory embracing 276,000 acres. The Turlock district comprises about 198,000 and the Modesto district 78,000 acres. The water will flow over the dam into two ditches. One will be 30 miles long and 100 feet wide, the other 28 miles long and 80 feet wide. The waters of the Tuolumne river will be banked up by the dam in the rocky canyon. A lake will thus be formed four miles long and half a mile wide. An idea of the solidity of the dam may be gathered from the fact that at its base it is 117 feet 9 inches thick, and that of solid stone, forming an indestructible barrier to the lake of water behind.—*Pacific Lumberman.*

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