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AIDED THE REVOLT

The Destruction of Portland, Me., In Colonial Days.

ACT OF AN ENGLISH OFFICER.

A Royalist Woman's Wiles Caused the Annihilation of the City and Saved Portsmouth, N. H., For Which Portland's Fate Had Been Planned.

One of the causes of the Revolutionary war, and quite as important as was the stamp act, was the wanton destruction of the city of Portland, Me., then part of the town of Falmouth.

It was said that the patriots might have forgiven Lexington and Concord, but that the razing of this town, which had been peacefully inclined until then, incensed the colonies beyond measure. One prompt result was the immediate formation of a Maine regiment which was added to the meager forces of the Continental army.

Not so generally known, however, is the tradition that it was due to the fascinations of a beautiful woman that Portland was destroyed and another town preserved.

When the British commander, Captain Mowatt, on board his flagship, the Canopus, anchored with his fleet in Portland's inner harbor, he did not re-joice to her citizens that the unscrupulous little god of love had been his pilot. Instead, on a bright October morning in 1775, he ran up the royal ensign on his fleet and at 9 o'clock began a bombardment that lasted un-interruptedly until 6 o'clock at night. Portland was unprepared for such a visitation, and there was no attempt at defense, the inhabitants simply swarming the streets with their ox-carts and horses and attempting to seek safety by flight to the open country back from the water front.

So close did the assailing vessels approach that under cover of the bombardment they landed sailors who pervaded the town, setting fire to such buildings as had escaped damage from hot shot and exploding bombs. Before Captain Mowatt had completed the sacrifice he desired to lay before Louis's shrine three-quarters of the town was totally destroyed, including the municipal buildings, churches, public library, fire engine houses, warehouses, wharfs and shipping.

All that he left was a handful of the poorer hovels, every residence of importance being bombarded or set on fire and 5,000 inhabitants left shelterless at the approach of winter. To make it practically certain that aid could not come to the seaport by water he destroyed all but one wharf and took with him on his departure all the vessels anchored in the harbor that had been spared from the torch.

Truly he had a glorious vendre and in explanation he exhibited instructions which read: "Come opposite the town with all possible expedition, and there burn, sink and destroy," but the gossips of the time said that these orders originally related to Portsmouth, N. H., and that it was due to a woman that they were not carried out as written.

Captain Mowatt and his fleet had anchored off Portsmouth harbor some time previously to his assault upon Portland, and while there he had gone quietly on shore and secretly visited the family of the royalist (or Tory, as the colonists called them), Nathaniel Sparhawk. Nathaniel had a daughter, a girl of eighteen, famed the country round for her beauty as her father was famed for his obnoxious loyalty to King George, and when the sailor captain saw her he proved an easy conquest (like most of the sailors whose pretty women are concerned), and he found it necessary to be rowed from his ship many times in order to spend the evenings with attractive Mary Sparhawk.

Her wit, beauty and brilliancy of conversation fascinated him and through her influence, it is said, the intention of bombarding Portsmouth was abandoned, and Portland suffered in the stead of the town which held the charming little loyalist.

So what one historian termed "a wanton, indefensible assault upon an undefended and peaceful city" came about through a woman's smile, and every volley from the fifty guns of Mowatt's fleet doubtless carried his thoughts back to the lass who had won his heart. The smoldering wharfs and the flaming houses were his burnt offering to his ladylove.

The Sparhawk house, where the captain lost his heart still stands; but, alas, the romance ended as so many romances do, for after the Revolution was over the fair and fascinating belle married a physician and a patriot—Detroit Free Press.

Only those who have had experience can tell the torture corns cause. Pain with your boots on, pain with them off—pain day and night; but relief is sure to those who use Holloway's Corn Cure.

THE ASTOR WAY.

A Lesson In Finance That William B. Taught His Bookkeeper.

The real estate dealer was reminiscing. "Some years ago," he said, "William B. Astor said one day to his head bookkeeper, 'I wish you to write out those 1,200 leases'—indicating the documents—'preparatory to releasing the various properties for which they will be drawn and reduce each rental price 25 per cent for the ensuing year.' The head bookkeeper, astonished, ventured to protest. 'There has been no complaint, Mr. Astor,' he said, 'from any tenant as to the amount of rent charged. All are satisfied to pay present prices.'

"This is a matter of future business," the financier replied, "as well as present. Times are not especially good just now, and I do not think they will improve this year. I am not, however, making this reduction as a philanthropic movement. It will be a good business investment for me to retain all of my tenants, if possible. Indications are that business conditions during the coming year will force many persons to move into cheaper houses and flats than they have been occupying for some time. I do not wish my tenants to move. I know them and am familiar with their ways. I am acquainted with their needs, demands and methods of paying their rents. If they should move I should have to try to replace them with new tenants, whose desirability I have not tested. Besides, I should have to spend large sums in repapering, painting and arranging these various properties to suit the new tenants. By reducing rents I shall have a delighted lot of tenants, who would not leave me if they could. Furthermore, I will make it impossible for them to find as good places elsewhere for the money. Naturally, having had their rents reduced, they will not ask for any repairs that can possibly be avoided, and I shall save some money in that direction, over previous years. Besides, I shall know the exact amount of reduction and shall be able to estimate my resources accordingly. If, on the contrary, I let many of my tenants move out the amount of my losses would be uncertain. You will find, if you compare my rentals at the end of the year with those of similar properties owned by other persons who make no reductions, that mine is a profitable plan. When times improve we can release at advanced figures, and undoubtedly to the same tenants."

"The bookkeeper learned a lesson in finance, the leases were drawn accordingly, and Astor did not lose a tenant."—New York Press.

"Sundry Folks." When Dr. John Cairns went from Scotland to Ireland for rest and travel in 1864 he was at once delighted by discovering from the guides who showed him about that most of the landed gentry were "Sundry folks."

"That's a fine castle," he would say, pointing to a big house set like a crown on some rocky hill.

"Yes, sorr," said his guide. "Tis Sir John O'Connor's," or, "Tis Sir Rory O'More's." He always added, "He's a Sundaiah mon."

At last Dr. Cairns grew curious. "What is a Sundaiah man?" he asked. "Well, sorr, it do be a mon that has so many writs out agin him for debts that he stays shut up tight in his house all the week and only comes out on a Sundaiah, when the law protects him." Dr. Cairns' opinion of the landed gentry underwent a change.

Elephants Can't Jump. "There is one thing no one has ever seen an elephant do either in a circus or out of it, and that is to jump," said a keeper in the Central park menagerie.

"The fact is an elephant cannot jump. Because of his great weight he cannot take all four feet off the ground at once. He can make a 100 yard dash at the rate of twenty miles an hour, which is going some, but if he was pursuing an enemy and came to a deep ditch eight feet across he would have to stop short, because it is too wide for him to step it and he is unable to jump. An elephant is a great coward. He will have a fit if a rabbit runs between his feet. He has tremendous strength, but he doesn't know it."—New York Sun.

A Curious Illusion. People declare that they have seen a field of grass gradually change color during a shower of rain, thousands of mushrooms springing up before their eyes. This is an optical illusion caused by the rain beating down the grass. The mushrooms do not really spring up during a single shower of rain. They are there already, but hidden by the grass, and when the rain beats down the grass it exposes the hidden mushrooms.—London Mail.

No Use For Amateurs. Ella—That young farmer tried to kiss me, saying that he had never kissed a girl before. Stella—What did you tell him? Ella—That I was no agricultural experiment station.

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