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THE MESSAGE

By LOUIS TRACY

Author of "The Edge of the Morning," "The Ethel of Fortune," "The Captain of the Kansas," etc.

(Continued.)

"I believe so. I have been absent nearly eight months, as you are aware, but I have not heard of any change in the local dynasty."

"Do you think it likely that he has ever visited England?"

"Most improbable," said Hume. "He is an absolute savage. I have seen him only once, and I should be sorry to think that my life depended on his good will. But why did you imagine he might have been in England?"

"Because a native of that name came there with two others last August."

"We have been visited by a man named Hume, Charles," put Mrs. Hume.

"Yes, generally they come begging for something they want—usually drugs—which they pretend to conceal themselves out of a snake's liver or the gizzard of a bird. Don't lay too much stress on Hume's flight. He is a chicken-hearted fellow at the best. If there is really any likelihood of a native descendant I shall send him with you and Miss Dana down the river."

"I shall not go without you, dear," said Mrs. Hume.

"No! I—unless both of you come," answered Evelyn.

Hume laughed constrainedly.

"You will both obey orders, I hope," he said, but he did not urge the matter further at the moment.

They were eating their evening meal when the distant tapping of a drum caught their ears. It was not the rhythmic beating of a tom-tom and therefore the drum-beating had a depressing, almost sinister effect. It jarred on the nerves. It suggested the unseen and therefore the terrible. At all costs they must find out what it signified.

Bambuk was summoned. He was even more distraught than during the festive performance of two hours earlier.

"Dem Oku drum play Custom tune," he explained. "Dem Custom mean, 'I hope,' 'Do you savvy what they are saying?' 'Broke in Hume sharply. He did not invite his wife whole of the habit of native potentates with her youthful helper, and even she herself did not know the full extent of the excesses, the sheer lust of bloodshed hidden under a harmless-sounding word."

"Savvy plenty. Dem drum made of monkey-skin—p'haps the kind of skin—dem juju man say: 'Come, come! Make sharp dem knife! Come! Come! Load dem gun! Come, den, come! Dem ribber (river) run red wid blood! Dem dey nail some men to tree an' make dance."

The missionary did not check his assistant's recital. It was best that the women should at least understand the peril in which they were placed. The compound held not more than fifty able-bodied men, and the only arms they possessed were native weapons. Hume's influence depended wholly on his skill in treating the ailments of the people and his patience in teaching their children not only the rudiments of English but the simpler forms of handicraft. His experience as an African missionary was not of long standing, but from the outset he had consistently refused to own any fire arm more deadly than a shotgun. Hitherto he had regarded the Upper Benue region as a settled and fairly prosperous one. His cherished dream was that before he died he might see the pioneer settlement at Kadana transplanted into a well-equipped college and training school, where Christianity and science might spread their light throughout that part of Africa. It shocked him now to think that all his work might be submerged under a wave of fanaticism, yet he clung to the hope that the warlike preparations of the men of Oku might mean nothing more serious than a tribal quarrel. This had happened once before, and he stepped in as arbitrator. By a liberal distribution of presents, including the whole of the mission stock of wine and brandy, he sent away both parties highly gratified with both his award and his method of arriving at it.

"There are war-drum beating in more than one place," said Evelyn, who was listening in silence to the spasmodic

NORTH POLE DISCOVERED, HONOR GAINED BY DR. FREDRICK COOK

Gallant Explorer's Story of Momentous Event—Reached There on April 21, 1908—What He Found—Absorbing Narrative of Expedition Told By Himself—King Edward Much Interested

(By Special Arrangement With the New York Herald.)

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Dr. Cook gave to no other publication any account of what he accomplished in the north.

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(By Dr. Frederick A. Cook.)

Herwick, Shelton Islands, Wednesday, Sept. 1—After a prolonged fight against famine and frost we have at last succeeded in reaching the North Pole.

A new highway, with an interesting strip of animated nature, has at last been explored.

Big game haunts were located, which will delight the sportsman and extend the Eskimo horizon.

Land has been discovered upon which rest the earth's northernmost rocks. A triangle of 30,000 square miles has been cut out of the territorial unknown.

The expedition was the outcome of a summer cruise in the Arctic seas. The yacht Bradley arrived at the limit of navigation in Smith Sound late in August, 1907. Her conditions were favorable to launch a venture for the pole. John R. Bradley liberally supplied from his yacht auxiliary provisions for local use, and my own equipment for emergencies served as the rest of the long winter.

Many Eskimos had gathered at Greenland shores for Annotook for the winter hunt. Tensmate catches of meat had been gathered. About the camp were plenty of strong dogs.

The competition was lucky, for there was no lack of material for an equipment, expert help and an efficient motor force and that which was required was conveniently secured at a point only 700 miles from Boreal center.

A house and workshop were built of packing boxes. The Eskimo tribe of 250 people were set to the problem of devising a suitable outfit and outfit for every part of the enterprise. Plans were made to force a new route over Grinnell Land and northward along its west coast out on to the Polar Sea.

Leave Greenland

At sunrise of 1908 (February 19), the main expedition embarked for the pole. Eleven men and 103 dogs, drawing eleven sleds, set out on the Polar Sea. The shore and pushed westward over the troubled ice of Smith Sound.

The gloom of the long night was relieved by only a few hours of daylight. The chill of winter was felt at its worst. As we crossed the heights of Ellesmere Sound to over Pacific slope the temperature sank to 83 degrees Fahrenheit. Several dogs were frozen and the men suffered severely, but we soon found game trails along which an easy way was found through Nansen Sound to the Lands End.

In this march were procured 101 mukluks, seven bears and 330 seal and then we pushed out into the Polar Sea from the southern point of Ellesmere Island.

On March 19 six Eskimos returned from here with four men and fifty-six dogs, moving supplies for eighty days.

Took Only Two Men

The crossing of the circum-polar pack was begun three days later, the other Eskimos forming the last supporting party returned. The trains had now been reduced by the survivors of the fittest. Etahshook and Aswelah, the two best men, and only six dogs were picked for the final dash. There was before us an unknown line of 460 miles to our goal.

The first days prevented long marches and with improving progress the big lead which separated the land ice from the central pack was crossed with little delay. Low temperature and persistent winds made life a torture but, cooped in snow hounds, eating dried beef and tallow and drinking hot tea, some animal comforts were occasionally to be gained.

For several days after the site of known land was lost the overcast skies prevented an accurate determination of our positions.

On March 30 the horizon was partly cleared of its smoky agitation and over the western mist was discovered a new land.

The observations gave our position latitude 84 degrees 0 minutes 47 seconds, longitude 88 degrees 0 minutes 36 seconds.

The urgent need of supplies on our main mission did not permit a detour to explore the coast.

Fashion Hint for Times Readers



BRAIDED BLOUSE OF CREPE.

This separate blouse shows an attractive use of braid as a trimming. Formal designs are seen on the entire blouse, and on the sleeves. The front part of the blouse is finished with black ribbon, white buttons and black jet. The neck is Dutch. A fluting of chiffon is seen at the end of the long sleeves, and there is a horizontal cuff showing a finish of the black jet. This blouse is worn with a black voile skirt.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS OF ONTARIO PREY OF FLAMES

Toronto, Sept. 1—Fire did enormous damage to the Ontario parliament buildings at noon today, breaking out in a moment. The cabinet had gone into session in the council chamber at eastern end, and many employees were enjoying the luncheon hour. Parties of tourists were strolling leisurely along corridors when with a startling sudden intonation the glass-covered ceiling at the western end of the main building gave way and crashed with a beam of burning timber to the ground floor, three stories below.

Through the aperture the roof glowed vivid in fire and the blaze burst out in a pillar between the ministers' reading room and the library. The fire department's fire department, the labor department, the interior hydrant crew, breaking his right wrist, in so doing, and C. Jennings and J. H. Bradshaw had the hose playing almost immediately. Meantime the cabinet had hastily risen and the ministers hurried to the west end of the building. The fire department's fire department, the labor department, the interior hydrant crew, breaking his right wrist, in so doing, and C. Jennings and J. H. Bradshaw had the hose playing almost immediately. Meantime the cabinet had hastily risen and the ministers hurried to the west end of the building.

Under the personal command of Sir Jas. Whitney, who stood at the head of the stairs, the parliamentary fire department commenced operations, throwing four streams of water. The premier had energetic lieutenants in A. W. Campbell, deputy minister of public works, and Architect Heakes, and while his ministerial chief was directing the fire-fighting, Hon. W. C. Hanna, provincial secretary, organized the staff into a salvage corps to save the papers and documents in various departmental offices. The minister assigned to officers of each branch responsibility for the papers in their charge, with the result that all the important documents were speedily deposited in places of safety. The minister worked and sweated like a freeman.

Sir James, in drenching water, his begrimed face shivered in an upturned collar, and his hat broken in by falling debris, was on the thick of the fire fighting.

Mr. Hanna equipped in an old coat and cap and heavy gloves was assisting the men who were removing property. Hon. Foy and Chas. Chase worked near Sir James, the latter with his coat off and the perspiration dripping from his face. Ministers, deputy ministers, and clerks commingled as volunteer fire-fighters.

At 1:30 o'clock with a roar, the bell centre of the wing crashed down, wiping out a considerable portion of the library, one of the largest and most important in Canada. The city fire department were now on the scene and taking charge, and his friends urged the premier to desert.

Papers, books, documents and furniture were clogging the smoke-bedecked and watery corridors, and were being carried out as rapidly as possible. Burning debris seemed to be falling everywhere and men were engaged in removing paintings and pictures from the main corridor.

The young ladies in charge of parliamentary telephone switchboard, Misses Gott and Walsley, stayed pluckily at their posts throughout all the uproar and excitement answering calls and making connections with unbroken promptness.

The total insurance carried on parliament buildings is \$3,000,000, distributed among several leading companies. One of these is the Scottish Union, which carries a risk of \$24,000 on the buildings, and Liverpool, London & Globe, \$34,000. There is no insurance on the library. What insurance there was is carried exclusively on the buildings and not on contents.

The departments practically destroyed include the provincial library, the office of the health department, the labor department, Hon. J. S. Hendrie's office, Hon. Adam Beck's office, the registrar-general's office, offices of Lieut. Colonel Delamont, assistant clerk of house and Sergeant Arms Glackmeyer's private offices.

Those badly damaged include the law offices of the health department, and the offices of A. H. Sydere, clerk of the house; King's printers' department, offices of architect, offices of Hon. A. G. MacKay, leader of opposition; offices of provincial geologist; parliamentary committee rooms, members' reading room.

Every one on the grounds is handing out the warmest kind of roasts at the way the fire department handled things. Premier Whitney stood on the steps of the building watch in hand timing the arrival of the reels. He refused to say anything during the progress of the fire, but stated he would give an interview afterwards, and estimated the damage to building at \$325,000. Estimated damage to provincial library, \$250,000. Estimated damage to furniture, \$100,000. Other contents, \$100,000. Insurance on buildings only, \$850,000. Supposed origin of fire, roofers' charcoal stove.

Belle—Gracious! That cow seems to be coming this way awfully fast.

Biff—Yes, I'm afraid she's lost her calf.

Belle—Well, do something about it quick to make her see that you are not it.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS

ALL KIDNEY DISEASES

BRIGHS, RHEUMATISM, GRAVEL, DIABETES, ETC.

23 THE PRINCE

Your Boy

Ask your doctor if he prescribes an alcoholic stimulant for your children. He will probably say "Very, very rarely." Ask him if he prescribes Ayer's Sarsaparilla for them. He will probably answer, "Very, very frequently." Ayer's Sarsaparilla is a strong tonic for the young.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture

ARITHMETICAL PUZZLE



Five plus one, plus eight, plus fifty equals a musical instrument. Can you add them up and tell the name of the instrument?

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

Back against right side, head to shoulder.