

## A GEM OF MODESTY.

Brevity and Thoughtfulness, Too, Characterized Lord Kitchener's speech Accepting Freedom of Southampton.

When the freedom of the Town of Southampton was tendered to Lord Kitchener the victorious General delivered a little speech, which is a gem of modesty and thoughtfulness for his men. It is worth quoting in full:

"I am very proud of the great honor you have conferred upon me in presenting me with the freedom of this flourishing city. I feel sure that the army will recognize it as a compliment and as an expression of that kind welcome that I am sure you are anxious to give them on their return. My first duty on landing is to express the heartfelt thanks of the non-commissioned officers and men to their countrymen and countrywomen who have subscribed so generously to assist and support their families while they have been away. The men will like me to add that they are grateful to those ladies who have visited their people, written letters telling them how they have been getting on, and have carried them news of their doings in the field. The non-commissioned officers and men have their own special anxieties and responsibilities in time of war; and I assure you that it lightens their care and helps them to go cheerfully through all they have to do to feel that if anything happened to them the pain that would be suffered by the dear ones at home would be tempered, if such pain can be tempered, by the comforting and sympathizing, who, they feel sure would look after those whom they leave behind. You will now have the pleasing opportunity of seeing many of these men returning joyfully to their homes, and I hope you will remember Lord Roberts' eloquent appeal and let your kindness take a non-alcoholic direction. I also feel confident that employers of labor will not leave those reservists who have done so much for the honor and glory of their country, after all ladies and gentlemen, is through the rank and file of the army that the nation now has the joy of securing a peaceful conclusion of the war. I am very glad to congratulate you, Mr. Mayor, and the people of Southampton upon the very efficient way in which this splendid port has fulfilled all the military requirements for putting an army in the field some miles away. Considering the vast number of men and the amount of material that have passed through this port, and the enormous special claims that have been made upon it, I consider that the result has been nothing less than wonderful, and I feel sure that you will be pleased to think that we at the front have appreciated the efforts which you have made, and I am anxious to give you my grateful thanks. My time is very short, so I will not say any more than thank you very much for special kindness, and beg you to convey to the people outside the hall my appreciation of the warm welcome they have given me on my coming home."

The Camera and the Crown.  
In these days when the camera misses nothing, it may seem hardly credible that there is only one thing in the world which has been photographed wearing its crown. Yet it is so. King Oscar of Sweden is the exception. No more democratic king sits on a throne than he, and his numerous publications, will probably be more appreciated by ordinary folk than the memoirs of royalty usually are. They will tell, no doubt, of King Oscar's dinner with the sailors at West India Dock, when, calling by chance at the Temple House, as the dinner bell rang, His Majesty asked leave to sit down with the men, and talked with English, German, Norwegian, Swedish and Dane, each in his own tongue. We shall be told, too, perhaps, on the authority of the King himself, of his meeting with M. Gaston Bonnier, the famous botanist, whom the King met botanizing near Stockholm, when on him interest led to conversation and M. Bonnier, not recognizing the King, suggested a lunch at the inn. "No, come home with me," said King Oscar, and as they reached the palace gate, the famous botanist realizing the identity of his friend, begged a thousand pardons and became reluctant to enter. "I'm sorry," said King Oscar, "but I happen to be the King of this country, and this is the only place I've got to entertain anybody in." M. Bonnier was at his ease, and the two went in and talked botany for the rest of the afternoon.

Long and Short Miles.  
English speaking countries have four different miles—the ordinary mile of 5,280 feet, and the geographical mile of 6,083 feet, making a difference of about one-seventh between the two; then there are the Scotch mile of 5,928 feet, and the Irish mile of 6,720 feet—four various miles, every one of which is still in use. When almost every country has its own standard mile. The Romans had their mil passuum, 1,000 paces, which must have been about 3,000 feet in length. The German mile today is 24,218 feet in length, more than four and a half times as long as ours. The Dutch, Danish and Prussian mile is 18,449 feet, three and a half times as long as ours, and the Swiss get more exercise in walking one of their miles than we get in walking five miles, for their mile is 9,153 yards long.

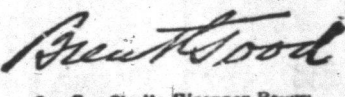
A Waiting Part.  
An English paper tells a story of some children's theatricals. A party of children were giving a little drama of their own, in which courtships and weddings played a leading part in the plot. While the party was in progress one of the "grown-ups" went behind the scenes and found a very small girl sitting in the corner. "Why are you left out?" he said. "Aren't you playing too?" "Oh, I've not left out," came the reply. "I've the baby waiting to be borned."

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Journalism in Formosa.  
Wherever the modern Japanese goes he starts a paper. Formosa has been generously blessed in this respect, and its two dailies are well worth the subscription price to those who wish to keep in touch with the affairs in the small but lively world for which they cater. According to accepted notions, indeed, it is not only a privilege, but also a duty, to subscribe. Those residents who prefer to see the affairs of their neighbors rather than their own affairs discussed in print lose nothing by subscribing several times over. Reminders to that effect not infrequently enliven the news columns.

"The Unspeaking Scot."  
Comparisons are said to be odious; but the following are most interesting: The Scotsman earns more than either the Englishman or Irishman. The Scotsman earns on the average £45 a year the Englishman £38 and the Irishman £20. Scotsmen, too, appear to be most thrifty. In the savings banks each Scotsman has £5 4s. each Englishman £5 and each Irishman £2. Industrial and co-operative societies sell £3 worth of goods to each Scotsman, £1 10s. worth to every Englishman and 2s. worth to every Irishman.—People's Friend, Dundee.

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## OPPORTUNITY.

This I beheld, or dreamed it in a dream: There spread a cloud of dust along a plain; And underneath the cloud, or in it, raged A furious battle, and men yelled, and swords Shocked upon swords and shields. A prince's banner Waved, then staggered backward, and fell by force. A craven hung along the battle's edge, And thought, "Had I sword of keener steel— That blue blade that the king's son bears Rhine thing!"—He snapt and flung it from his hand, And lowering crept away, and left the field. Then came the king's son, wounded, sore distressed, And weaponless, and saw the broken sword, Buried in the dry and trodden sand, And ran and snatched it, and with battle-swept lifted aloft he heaved his enemy down, And saved a great cause that heroic day. —E. R. Sill.

## BOER WAR STORIES.

An Innocent "Tommy" and His Query to General Botha.

The London Daily Mail's war correspondent, Mr. Edgar Wallace, writing from Klerksdorp, says: "There is an unrecorded incident of the amusement among the Boer delegates. The train conveying General Botha to Klerksdorp was standing at a small station when a 'Tommy,' moved by curiosity, drew near to the special saloon on the bridge of which Louis Botha was standing, and, respectfully saluting the Boer leader, asked, 'When are you going to let us go home?' Botha smiled and replied, 'Very soon,' he hoped. 'The sooner the quicker,' quoted Atkins, and Botha laughed heartily."

A story is told in the English papers concerning a captain of the Fighting Fifth who fell into General Delarey's hands on December 15, 1900, when, in conjunction with Commandant Beyers he surprised General Clements at Nootgedacht. After the engagement General Delarey, addressing the captain in friendly tones, said: "Our day-to-day, captain, yours to-morrow." He then gave an order that the prisoner should be removed to a neighboring mill, and offered the captain his own house that he might ride there.

The offer was accepted, but, on mounting, the officer found himself in the position of being an armed man again, for Delarey's rifle was resting in the stirrup cup. "Perhaps you had better take this, General," he said, handing the weapon to Delarey, who laughingly replied that perhaps he had.

He then said, "But I must have those glasses, captain," indicating a pair of field glasses which his prisoner was carrying. The latter, however, begged to be allowed to retain these, as he particularly prized them.

"I am very sorry, captain," was the reply, "but I must have them. But I tell you what I will do. As soon as this war is over, I will send them to you, or their value," and the captain still believes that he will keep his word.

## London's Fire Traps.

We are sure that if a practical enquiry were set on foot as to the extent of the provision generally made in the buildings of London for protection against fire an appalling conclusion would be reached. Several lives have been lost recently in London fires because there was no way of escape. London is undoubtedly swarming on all sides with death traps only ready to claim their victims when a fire has broken out. Every one is aware of the difficulties which have to be faced when the question of the efficient protection of life shut up in buildings in a congested area is approached. In probably the majority of buildings in London it is impossible even to escape to the roof and thence to gain a safe refuge on the adjoining premises. We know at least of one instance, that of well-known bank premises, in which the boundaries of the property are marked on the roof by ugly spiked fences. While it is true that even this way of escape is not easy, it is certain that in a greater number of instances no such thing as a fire ladder is available.

How painful and appalling the outcome can be is evident from the terrible results of the non-existence of any means of escape at a fire which occurred in the city on Monday last. The example is all the more remarkable since the fire broke out in broad daylight, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and within 300 yards of the chief city fire station. The first call, indeed, came to the brigade by a messenger on foot. In spite of the proximity of the rescue station, ten lives were sacrificed in this fire because there were no means of escape and because the rescue appliances could not reach the upper floors, where several poor operatives were in danger. The fire escape was too short by a few feet. On the morning after the fire one of our representatives visited the scene, and he states that the building was not a remarkably high one, and not so high as thousands of others in London streets.

The fire brigade authorities must be aware of the length of their fire escapes, and they must surely also know the extreme height of the large buildings in the metropolis, and yet in this instance the fire escape failed to reach the top floor of the building. Prima facie, there would seem to be a glaring in this occurrence a distinct and serious defect in the machinery of the brigade.

## After Long Years.

An old man who had been working for a city firm for forty-two years, called one morning into his master's private office.

"I'm awfully sorry, Mr. Holden," said his employer, "but we've decided to reduce the staff, so your services will not be required after next week."

The old fellow seemed to be considerably astonished. "Surely there's some mistake, sir," he exclaimed. "Why, when I started I was told the job was regular!" —London Answers.

## LOSS OF APPETITE



If your stomach is upset or in any way out of order—if food seems distasteful to you—if acidity, burning or fullness of the stomach prevents you from having an appetite—if you wish to eat and eat well—take, before each meal, a wine glassful of

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