

*Maggie Johnston*

# THE ENTRANCE

FIFTH CLASS EDITION.

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### Benin Expedition.

The massacre of a British expedition sent on a peaceable mission to Benin city, the capital of the kingdom of Benin, and the recent capture of the city by British troops, have brought this portion of the dark continent into sufficient prominence for us to devote a few lines to it. The kingdom of Benin is situated in West Africa between the lower Niger and the State of Dahomey. Benin was at one time a very powerful country, but it is now broken up into several petty states of little importance. The whole coast line is now in the hands of the British. Benin city, the capital, is situated on Benin River, about seventy-three miles inland. It has a population of about 15,000. Another harbor, Gato, lower down the river, has a large trade in palm oil. The Benin River is two miles wide at its mouth, but there is a mud bar at the mouth of the river which interferes considerably with navigation. Least some of our readers have not read of the massacre referred to above, we would just state that the expedition was sent to Benin to negotiate in the interests of trade. It consisted of 260 unarmed men, seven of whom were Englishmen, the remainder natives. It started from Bonny, on the Niger Coast, West Africa, about the first of January, and proceeded in safety almost to the city of Benin, when the attack occurred. Only two of the expedition escaped with their lives. An avenging force was immediately sent against the King of Benin, and the city was soon in possession of the British and the king a fugitive. The result of the incident will doubtless add considerable territory to the Empire.

### The Corliss Bill.

The Immigration Bill of the United States, referred to in our last issue, carried with it an amendment, which was specially annoying to Canadians. The amendment was moved by Corliss, a member of the House of Representatives for the district in which the city of Detroit is situated. In this proposed legislation Corliss is doubtless trying to catch the labor vote of his city. It is to be hoped that the bill will be dealt with by President McKinley in the same manner as by Mr. Cleveland. As the matter will doubtless come up again in the new Congress, we give below the clauses of the Corliss amendment which are particularly objectionable to Canadians:

Section 4—That it shall hereafter be unlawful for any male alien, who has not in good faith made his declaration before the proper court of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, to be employed on any public works of the United States, or to come regularly or habitually into the United States by land or water for the purpose of engaging in any mechanical trade or manual labor for wages or salary, returning from time to time to a foreign country.

Section 5—That it shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, company, or corporation knowingly to employ any alien coming into the United States in violation of the next preceding section of this act. Provided that the provision of this act shall not apply to the employment of sailors, deck hands or other employees of vessels, or railroad train hands, such as conductors, engineers, brakemen, firemen, or baggagemen, whose duties shall require them to pass over the frontier to reach the termini of their runs, or to boatmen, or guides on the lakes and rivers on the northern border of the United States.

A violation of these sections is made a misdemeanor, punishable by fine up to \$500, or imprisonment up to one year, or both.

### The Cretan Trouble.

In our last issue we stated that the powers had notified Greece to withdraw her troops from Crete. The world awaited with considerable anxiety the answer from the little kingdom. Greece refuses to leave Crete to Mussulman fanaticism, and urges the powers not to insist on the scheme of autonomy (self-government), nominally under Turkish rule. The powers are considering the reply, but at present writing there seems a disposition to use force, if necessary, to have their demands carried out by Greece. If the latter country persists in her refusal to withdraw her troops from Crete the powers will blockade, not only Crete, but also the Piræus, the port of Athens. Such is the present condition of things.

Should war break out between Greece and Turkey it will be interesting to know just what the chances of each are in the struggle. Turkey had, in 1896, a population of about 15,430,000 in Asia, and 5,750,000 in Europe, and of this aggregate of over 21,000,000, nearly 15,000,000 are Mohammedans. The population of Greece is a little less than 2,200,000, about one tenth that of Turkey and not nearly one-half that of Turkey in Europe.

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