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Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

SOME GIANTS.

Very Tall Woman Was Native of Nova Scotia.

There is little or no warrant in history or in archaeology for the supposition that the elder races were much taller or more powerful than are those of the present day. We are limited in our conception of the truth of Pliny's description of the Arabian giants by a due realization of the probable imagination of the narrator.

The average present height of the human race is about sixty-five inches, but the average is produced by measuring both the races which are exceedingly tall and exceedingly short. The so-called gaitaway races, of which the Scots of Galloway still stand at the head, are offset by the little peoples of central Africa, but one century with another and one geological period with another, the same thing probably has been largely true.

A few individuals have exceeded nine feet, according to authenticated records, but they have invariably been freaks, and do not justify the claim, now set forth by the alleged discoverers of a graveyard in America filled with petrified giants, that a race of giants ever walked the earth.

The giant legend is probably derived from the same source as the notion that everything deteriorates as time runs on. It is of one piece with the pessimistic idea that virtue and happiness and good works of every sort have been declining ever since the world was young.

It was at first supposed that the first men on earth were necessarily tall and mighty, because it also was supposed that everything was going down hill. "There were giants in those times" was in reality a way of saying that men were not as great as they previously had been.

But a more modern view is that the stature of races is due, not only to nature, but to nurture, and it is conceded that man was never so well built as he is to-day. It is infinitely more probable that man in the distant future will be a giant than that such ever existed in a previous age.

The recent revival of the petrified giant industry in the United States recalls the story of the monstrous fraud perpetrated on the American public during the year 1869 when people were led to believe that a 10-foot man had once lived and was buried near the little village of Cardiff in New York State.

The idea had its inception out in Fort Dodge, Iowa, when an adventurous showman purchased a huge block of gypsum from a quarryman of that place. The block then was shipped to Chicago, it being taken in charge by a sculptor, who chiselled it into a 10-foot giant. The surface was pricked with needles to give the appearance of pores in the human skin, and then treated with a variety of acids which made the entire statue appear of ancient origin.

After completion the giant was securely packed in an iron box and shipped to Union, New York, where the owner claimed it, loaded the bulky box upon a large wagon, and hauled it fifty miles to a farm near Cardiff. The giant form was then removed from the box and secretly buried, remaining under the ground nearly a year, until it was "accidentally" discovered by some workmen who had been engaged to dig a well by the promoter of the fraud.

ORDERS ARE ORDERS.

When Sir Robert Borden Met an English Sergeant.

It was of the "oathen" that friend Rudyard Kipling wrote. "E don't obey no orders unless they 's own." Not of the British soldier. My word no. You ask Sir Robert Borden. He can tell you a story to prove that to the British soldiers "orders is orders," and that you may take the broad and easy path to the place where there is no bother about winter, before he will depart from them to the breadth of an eyelash.

It happened when Sir Robert was Premier of Canada. He was in London attending the Imperial Conference that preceded the Peace Conference. On the afternoon that the then President Wilson of the United States was to arrive in London, Sir Robert put on his best topper and hied him to the station to take part in the reception. Until he reached the railed-off circle wherein stood the King and other dignitaries, also bent on welcoming the United States President, Sir Robert had no misgivings. At a drop barred entrance to the railing he was confronted by a handsome representative of the British army, wearing a sergeant's chevrons and a number of stripes indicating wounds.

"Ticket, sir," said the sergeant smartly. Sir Robert realized something then. "By jove," said he, "I've forgotten it. Left them on my desk in Whitehall Gardens." "Must have a ticket to get in 'ere sir," said the soldier. "But I won't have time to go back and get it before the train arrives," protested Sir Robert. "Here's my card—I happen to be the Premier of Canada."

"Cawn't 'elp it, sir; orders is orders. No ticket, no gettin' in." "Look here, sergeant," said Sir Robert. "There's Gen. Smuts. Just call 'im over 'ere a minute; he'll 'elp for me." "Couln't do it, sir; my orders is to stay 'ere and 'ere I stays." "Get one of your men to call 'im." "Sorry, sir, the men is actin' on orders, too; I cawn't call 'em away from their posts."

The situation became too embarrassing for Sir Robert. He didn't get through the barrier in time to greet the President and he did say some things subsequently that started those to whom his urbanity and quiet dignity are characteristic. They do say that about the mildest words he used sounded suspiciously like "Gol darn it." But subsequently he saw the humor of the situation as well as its illumination of the British character. "It's typical," he said. "How could the Germans ever hope to beat a race like that?"

Deserts Wife for Squaw.

How a romance of the wilds of Canada triumphed over an infatuation of the city was told in the divorce court in London, Eng., by Mrs. Florence Delaney, who was granted a decree nullifying her marriage to Archibald Delaney on the ground of its being a bigamous marriage. Her action was not contested. The plaintiff said she went through the form of marriage to Delaney in February, 1917. She had known him several years before, but he went to Canada and she heard nothing more of him until 1916, when she saw him here with the Canadian forces. They were married and lived in Hastings. Soon after their marriage, however, he returned to Canada with the understanding that she was to follow him, but a year later she received a letter from him in which he said he had married an Indian girl on Bear Island, Nipissing, in 1919, and that she had rejoined him and they were living happily together.

He said he was under the impression that his marriage with the Indian girl was illegal, but had found it was not. He hoped he would not have to go to prison for his marriage in England. Mrs. Delaney also received a letter from Archibald Macquinn, Delaney's Indian wife, which was in the form of an affidavit, testifying to her marriage to Delaney.

Battle for Alaska.

Between Pinchot, apostle of conservation, and Secretary of the Interior Fall, apostle of exploitation, there is being waged a duel to the death for the control of Alaska. The decline of white population in the peninsula has furnished the excuse for the renewed assault of the forces headed by the secretary. Bureaucratic methods of the conservationist administration of the territory are said to be the cause of the emigration to Canada. Very sinister methods by the astute Canadian Government are alleged by the propagandists of "development," as destruction of natural resources is known to its friends. Probably President Harding will be dragged into the controversy before long, according to Washington despatches. Alaska remains one of the few great wooded areas of the United States. Whether it will become treeless and a state, or remain green-clad and a territory, remains to be seen. Canada will be an interested spectator.

The death occurred at the hospital, Strathroy, on Monday last of Friend Lloyd Smith, son of Luther and Elizabeth Ann Smith, in his 30th year. The funeral was held from the family residence, Park street, Tuesday afternoon to Bethel cemetery, Warwick, in which township the family resided before their removal to Strathroy about a year ago. Besides his parents he is survived by one brother, Ernest, of Warwick, and two sisters, Cora and Verna, at home.

While playing on the street on Saturday afternoon, Carlisle, the little son of Dr. Boyd, had a narrow escape from being fatally injured when a car driven by Robt. Luke, of Brooke, ran over him. The car was merely moving, when the little fellow fell off the sidewalk directly in front of the wheels, passing over one leg and arm. How he managed to get off with so few bruises is a wonder, and luckily he was not hurt bad, no bones being broken.—Alvinston Free Press.



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