

BEN HUR.

Was Written by His Author Had Visited its Scenes. In New Mexico he finished and published "Ben Hur" on which he had been working for five years. President Garfield read the story, and telegraphed him to come to Washington, and offered him the post of minister to Turkey.

"I then went to Constantinople," said Gen. Wallace, "and after I arrived I went over the country and scenes of 'Ben Hur' to see what mistakes I had made. I found only confirmation, and that, too, in many cases where it was mere conjecture on my part.

"I had found only one mistake in 'Ben Hur,' and that was pointed out by a critic, who wrote me that in my description of the Bay of Naples, where I spoke of the smoke ascending from Mount Vesuvius, I was mistaken, because the volcano was not smoking at that period of history. I looked up the matter, and found that I had missed it by about four years, and I never corrected it, for it would have spoiled the artistic effect of the picture. I needed the smoke."

When asked why he had never dramatized "Ben Hur," Gen. Wallace said: "I would never do it, and never would permit others to do it. There is so much of dramatic interest that would have to be let out that I have steadily refused all offers. Kraly, backed by several capitalists, proposed to go to Staten Island and get a tract of 30 acres to give the drama on a large scale. He said he would use two acres for a stage, and proposed to have a spectacular representation of the sea fight and the chariot race, and then he proposed to represent the crucifixion. I declined," said the general, with his most austere air.

When asked about his book, "The Fair God," Gen. Wallace said: "I began it at the age of 16, before I went to Mexico, and resumed work on it at intervals after my return. I was 16 years in writing it, and my love for the adventurous career of the great Spaniard, Cortez, as told by Prescott, caused me to take up that subject. I had never visited either Mexico or Turkey when I wrote the story."—Louisville Commercial

LORD NELSON'S GENIUS. Essentials in the Character of the Great Naval Hero. The intellectual endowment of genius was Nelson's from the first, but from the circumstances of his life it was denied the privilege of early manifestation, such as was permitted to Napoleon. It is, consequently, not so much this as the constant exhibition of moral power, force of character, which gives continuity to his professional career and brings the successive stages of his advance, in achievement and reputation, from first to last, into the close relation of steady development, subject to no variation save that of healthy and vigorous growth, till he stood unique—above all competition. This it was—not, doubtless, to the exclusion of that reputation for having a head, upon which he justly prided himself—which had already fixed the eyes of his superiors upon him, as the one officer, not yet indeed fully tested, most likely to cope with the difficulties of any emergency. In the display of this, in its many self-revelations—in concentration of purpose, untiring energy, fearlessness of responsibility, judgment sound and instant, boundless audacity, promptness, intrepidity and endurance beyond all proof—the restricted fields of Corsica and the Riviera, the subordinate position at Cap St. Vincent, the failure of Tenerife, had in their measure been as fruitful as the Nile was soon to be, and fell naught behind the bloody harvests of Copenhagen and Trafalgar. Men have been disposed, therefore, to reckon this moral energy—call it courage, dash, resolution, what you will—as Nelson's one and only great quality. It was the greatest, as it is in all successful men of action, but to ignore that this mighty force was guided by singularly clear and accurate perceptions, upon which it also constantly rested with a firmness of faith that constituted much of its power, is to rob him of a great part of his due renown.—"Mahan's Life of Nelson."

Procuring Tortoise Shell. The tortoise shell of commerce is not, as generally believed, the horny covering or shell proper of the turtle; it is the scales which cover the shield. These scales are 13 in number, eight of them being flat and the other five somewhat curved. Four of those that are flat are quite large, sometimes being as much as 12 inches long and seven inches broad; nearly transparent and beautifully variegated in color with red, yellow, white and dark brown clouds, which give the effects so fully brought out when the shell is properly polished. A turtle of average size will furnish about eight pounds of these laminae, of scales, each piece being from an eighth to a quarter of an inch in thickness.—"Vegetarian."

ISLAND SEA IN ALASKA.

Geographical Discovery of a Klondike Gold Prospector. Members of the New York Geographical Society are much interested in the reported discovery of a new inland sea in Alaska, which, so far, has not appeared on any map, but they are awaiting some definite information before giving full credence to the find, says the New York Herald. According to the San Francisco dispatches George Stinson, who recently arrived from the Cooper River district, made his way to Cook's inlet up the Matanooki river, crossing over to the Matanooki divide. There, he asserts, he found a lake at least 100 miles long. On going round the edge of the lake he found a big river, which he followed down into Copper river. Mr. Stinson declares there are rich gold and copper mines near the head of Copper river, but the only way to get there is to go overland from Cook's island. George C. Hurlbut, librarian of the New York Geographical Society, said he had read the San Francisco dispatches with much interest, but he had been unable to find in the records or maps of the society any such river in Alaska as that named by Mr. Stinson. At the same time, he said, the river might appear on the maps under another name, that used by Mr. Stinson being perhaps one given to the river by the Indians. "While," said Mr. Hurlbut, "I have never heard of Mr. Stinson before, what he says may be perfectly correct. I am inclined to doubt it. People tell these stories honestly enough, but they have not made a careful examination of the situation before reporting discoveries. The whole of Alaska has never been explored. All the people know about it is as far as the coast line is concerned and about the Yukon. "Alaska is a region twice as large as France, and possibly three times, and naturally there is lots of room there for new discoveries. A part of the Copper river has been traveled along, but it has never been explored. The only positive thing about Alaska is that we don't know it. The people who are flocking into Alaska now will soon let us know something more definite about the country—that is, after the Klondike craze. "As far as Stinson's discovery is concerned, we have absolutely no data here by which we can verify the report. It might be another report like that about Lake Mystassini, in Quebec province, Canada, which over and over again was stated to be very much larger than Lake Superior. These reports kept coming in year after year, when at last it was discovered that the lake was a very narrow one, and less than a hundred miles long. The present case might be very similar, while, on the other hand, it might prove a valuable discovery. Mr. Stinson, according to the reports, went down the Cooper river from its source. It took him from March 1 to the middle of August to cover the distance, about 300 miles. In one place the river runs under a glacier for four miles. He praises the Copper River Indians for their honesty and integrity, and says they are a fine race. He says they have found one of the lost arts, that of hardening copper and welding it to iron."

LUNAR ATMOSPHERE. Astronomers Are Entertaining New Ideas on the Subject. As to the question of a lunar atmosphere, the eminent astronomers in charge of the Paris observatory, MM. Loewy and Pansieux, appear to hold a somewhat different opinion from that commonly entertained by scientists. Admitting that, so far as the solution of any problems brought to their notice is concerned, the determination as to whether there is a very little or none at all is not really necessary, there are evidences, they conclude, that it must be very rare—not more than one-nine-hundredth of the density of our own, the reasons why this must be so being as follows, namely: That when the moon detached itself from the equatorial regions of the earth, it must have taken with it as a portion of its material some of the earth's chemical elements of the earth, or at least those lighter ones that lay near the surface at the time, it being probable, however, that our planet retained the greater proportion of the gaseous envelope. Such being the case the weaker provision of free gases fell to the moon, and this quantity would naturally diminish as the moon material began to solidify—the water would enter into stable combinations with the elements of the soil, and without doubt such minerals as gypsum and lime would be formed, which imprison the water within solid salts that are little affected by the play of natural forces. Reasoning similarly, MM. Loewy and Pansieux declare that what is true of water is true also of the air.—N. Y. Sun.

The ultra-responsible cabochon for hats as a large round design in dull silver, set with mock emeralds or with rhinestones.

Women are notoriously bad shots. In West Australia the other day a mine manager's wife was christening an engine and had to throw a champagne bottle at it. It was somewhat larger than the proverbial haystack, and she was only a couple of yards from it, yet she cleverly managed to miss it and hit her hubby—a portly person—below the belt, knocking him into a cistern ten feet deep and badly hurting him.—Melbourne Argus.

A Bad Shot.

BREVITIES OF FUN.

—There is an old fellow in Nottingham who snores so loudly that he is obliged to sleep at a house in the next street, to avoid awakening himself.—Tit-Bits. —Uncle—"I don't know about lending you any more money. When I lent you money two months ago you said you only wanted it for a little while." Nephew—"Well, I didn't keep it long."—Tit-Bits. —The Candidate—"Well, go long, Mr. Casey! I'm glad that those stories about me don't cut any ice with you." The Citizen—"Divil a bit. Sure, the mon thot's runnin' ag'in you is ivery bit as bad."—Puck. —He (tenderly)—"When I put my arm around you, and clasp your hand in the waltz, what do you think about me don't cut any ice with you?" The Citizen—"Divil a bit. Sure, the mon thot's runnin' ag'in you is ivery bit as bad."—Puck. —A poor man applied to the wealthy Baron Rapeneau in such moving terms that the baron, quite overcome, cried out to his valet: "Jean, turn this poor fellow out; he is breaking my heart."—Household Words. —Had Mistaken the Place—"What!" demanded the amazed and angry British tourist; "no 'boots' in this blasted town?" "Naw; we ain't got no 'boots'," replied the un-abashed porter. "This is a hotel; this ain't no department store."—Puck. —A Martyr's Account—"Perkins, your wife seems very devoted to her flowers?" "Devoted!" Well, sir; many an October night that woman has dragged the blankets off my bed to keep those weazened little geraniums from getting frost-bitten."—Detroit Free Press. —In some parts of Devonshire the people live to be very old. An old man of 90, living quite a distance from the nearest town, requiring some family groceries, sent his son, a man of 70-odd years of age. When the son failed to show up with the provisions in time, his grandfather, a centenarian of 108, said peevishly: "That's what comes from sending a kid."—Tit-Bits.

SELLS MICE FOR A LIVING. Curious Occupation Followed by a Parisian Lady. Verily one-half of the world does not know how the other half lives. Equally true is it that never before were there so many curious ways of making a living as there are at present. There have been physicians in Paris for several centuries, says the New York Herald, but not until quite recently did any of them think it necessary to make a contract by the terms of which they are to receive a certain number of mice during the current year. The general public was rather surprised when it heard of this contract, for the reason that the physicians who act in this matter as a committee of the faculty of medicine agree to pay a good price for the mice, whereas there are many persons in Paris who would be only too glad to make the doctors a present of these ravenous little animals. The physicians, however, know what they are about. They want mice, but they don't want ordinary, everyday mice. Only cultured, well fed, dainty mice will suit them, and they have given the contract to Mme. Alexandre, because they know that she is the only person in Paris who can supply on demand any number of such desirable animals. Yes, Mme. Alexandre's business in life is to furnish mice to Richey, Chantemesse and several other leading specialists in Paris and elsewhere. She also keeps rabbits and guinea pigs, but mice are her specialty. It is 15 years since she first began to supply animals to the Pasteur institute, the Municipal laboratory and several other such places. She has hardly any competitors, and she has more orders than she can well fill. She feeds her mice exclusively on bread and milk. Her clients insist that the animals must be white and plump, and she finds this diet the best for them. When they are three months old they are ready for the doctors, and she seldom has any on hand other than age. She disposes of these hapless victims, not only to her regular clients in London and Geneva. The little mice are well able to stand a long journey, and they are as fresh when they arrive in London as they were when they left Paris. Madam is never short of mice. At present she has about 100 on hand, and as these animals multiply very rapidly, she will have double that number in an incredibly short time.

A Bad Shot.

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A Bad Shot.

Bulletin Financier.

Mardi, 23 novembre 1897.

COMPTOIR D'ÉCHANGES (CLEARING-HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS. Table with columns for various financial instruments and their values.

MARCHE MONETAIRE. Table listing monetary market data including gold and silver prices.

MARCHE MONTAINE. Table listing market data for various commodities and currencies.

MARCHE DE NEW-YORK. Table listing market data for New York exchange rates and commodities.

MARCHE DE LIVERPOOL. Table listing market data for Liverpool exchange rates and commodities.

MARCHE DE HAVRE. Table listing market data for Havre exchange rates and commodities.

MARCHE DE BORNEO. Table listing market data for Borneo exchange rates and commodities.

MARCHE DE SINGAPOUR. Table listing market data for Singapore exchange rates and commodities.

MARCHE DE MANILLE. Table listing market data for Manila exchange rates and commodities.

Bulletin Commercial.

Mardi, 23 novembre 1897.

MARCHE DE LA NIE-ORLEANS. Table listing market data for New Orleans exchange rates and commodities.

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MARCHE DE CEBU. Table listing market data for Cebu exchange rates and commodities.

MARCHE DE YOKOHAMA. Table listing market data for Yokohama exchange rates and commodities.

MARCHE DE LA NIE-ORLEANS.

Le Cotton Exchange a rapporté aujourd'hui des ventes de 2,500 balles à 3,400 à arrivez. Le marché est stable. Les cotons bruts sont de 1/4 à plus bas que les cotons évanoués.

Table listing cotton market data including grades like Low Ordinary, Good Ordinary, etc.

Table listing various market data including sugar and other commodities.

Table listing market data for various goods and currencies.

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Large table on the right side of the page containing various market data, prices, and exchange rates for numerous commodities and currencies.