

# CAPTURED BY BUSHRANGERS.

## My Escape.

After a voyage from Liverpool to Melbourne I went up country with a Canadian acquaintance named Shaw for a sort of vacation. I had sailed with Shaw while he was Captain of a Halifax ship, filling the berth of second mate to his satisfaction, and, as I had saved his life on one occasion, there was a warm feeling between us. He was now the owner of a big sheep ranch on the Murray River, and I was only too glad to get a run ashore and see something of a country noted for its anomalies. This was before the days of railroads and while the penal colony was in full blast and the bushranger king of the road.

We were five days riding out to Shaw's ranch, our vehicle being a wagon loaded with supplies and drawn by six yokes of bullocks, which were almost as wild as buffaloes. I heard very little about the bushrangers until we reached the ranch, and then Shaw gave me such accounts of the fellows as made me hope I should never be obliged to form their acquaintance. His immediate district had not been visited for two or three years, but they had come in to the north and west of him and indulged in many robberies and murders. There were three Englishmen and twelve natives on the range, which was an extent of country nine miles long by five broad. The force at the headquarters house, after our arrival, numbered three white men, a white woman, three natives, two black women, and four or five black children. No gang of bushrangers numbering less than six

### WOULD DARE TO ATTACK US,

as the house was well armed and the black women could fire a musket as well as a man. Shaw had instructed his help to adopt a peace policy. In case a bushranger applied at any of the stations for food or shelter he was to be accommodated, and if they picked off a sheep occasionally no notice was to be taken of it. As I said before, he had not been disturbed thus far, but while he deluded himself with the idea that it was on account of the policy pursued, events were about to occur to prove that the gentlemen of the bush had been waiting their own convenience.

A bushranger was, in every instance, a desperate criminal who had made his escape from prison or the penal settlements. There wasn't one of them who had not deserved the gallows before he fled to the bush. A dozen or more of the most desperate characters sent to Tasmania had escaped and reached the larger island and penetrated to the interior, and these men were particularly ferocious and without mercy. Shaw seemed to rest easy, however, and so during the first week of my stay I did not bother my head about the rangers. Indeed, a new comer had enough to do to get accustomed to the snakes, lizards, insects, and other annoyances which kept him stirred up day and night.

On the tenth day of my stay Mr. Shaw and I set out to visit one of the outlying stations in charge of an Englishman named Thomas. This man was about 45 years old, and had deserted from an English man-of-war. He had three black men under his charge, and one of them had been sent in the day before with a badly written note to the effect that many

### SHEEP WERE BEING KILLED,

and that all signs went to show that a gang of rangers had settled down in the neighborhood. We were mounted on good horses and well armed as we rode away, and after an hour's ride we drew near the station, which consisted of a stout log hut for the keeper, another for the blacks, and pens for herding the sheep. We found the place silent and apparently deserted, and leaving our horses in a thicket, we cautiously approached on foot. The first discovery made was that the blacks had been killed, and we pushed on to the larger hut to find Thomas within half an hour of breathing his last. He could speak in whispers, and he told us that seven bushrangers had appeared the evening before and committed the atrocities visible on every hand. Although he had made them welcome and prepared supper, they had come for a different purpose. The blacks, one by one had been tortured in the most horrible manner, and when the last one was dead they had turned on Thomas. They had sliced off his ears, broken his fingers, cut off the end of his nose, hacked off his toes, and tortured him in other ways, and had not left the place until about an hour before our arrival. Everything of value which could be carried off was gone, and a bloody knife was left sticking in the door sill as a sort of defiance to Shaw and the officers of the law.

There was no Government patrol in that district at that time, and the only move we could make was to alarm the two nearest ranchmen and organize a pursuit on our own account. By noon next day we had ten white men and about twenty faithful blacks in hand for a start, and the trail was taken up at the cabin. No one had any great hopes that we should overtake the rangers, but it was argued that pursuit must be made or they would soon terrorize the whole district. If we did happen to uncover them there

### WOULD BE A HOT FIGHT.

Every ranger had a price set on his head, and would fight to the death, and the ranchmen were men who had faced death almost daily for years. The white men were mounted, while the blacks were on foot, but they had no trouble in keeping up with us. After running across the grazing lands for about a mile the trail entered the broken ground covered with thickets, and at the end of another mile we had to leave our horses and follow the trail on foot. It was quite evident that the fellows did not fear pursuit, for they had gone at a leisurely pace, and the men best acquainted with the country predicted that the gang had headed for a rocky ravine in the midst of a heavy growth, about six miles from the cabin. The prediction was soon verified, and we went forward with greater caution, hoping the fellows would be sound asleep after their night's carnival. They had taken two gallons of whiskey from the cabin, and the chances were that they would all be stupidly drunk.

When within about two miles of the ravine we suddenly ran into an ambush and received a volley. One white man was killed and another wounded, and one black man was stretched dead. Shaw was acting as the Captain of our troops, and he ordered us to deploy and advance in open order. The rangers were in a thicket, and we soon drove them out and killed one. In pressing

on after the others we became more and more separated, and after a bit I found myself alone to the right of the others. I kept advancing toward the ravine, supposing the others to be doing the same, and I had advanced a mile or more beyond the point where we had been ambushed when it suddenly occurred to me that I was acting very rashly in separating myself by such a distance. I at once bore to the left to join forces, but, unknown to me, all the others had halted half a mile in the rear, held a brief council, and then decided to retreat. I was still bearing to the left, and wondering why I did not discover any of the troop, when the whole gang of rangers suddenly rose up from the earth around me, and I was a prisoner. There were six of

### THE WICKEDEST-LOOKING VILLAINS

an honest man ever clapped eyes on. They were roughly dressed, their hair and whiskers long and unkempt, and their clothing was mostly of sheep skins. I have seen some hard-looking men in my time, but never anything to compare with this half dozen, who were under the leadership of the notorious Joe Trimble. This man had been transported for murder, and during the two years he was in the colony he killed two guards and led a revolt. He escaped from Tasmania by floating out of the harbor on a plank, being loaded down with forty pounds of chain at the time, but whether he was picked up at sea or driven to the Australian coast was not known to the authorities. He got there somehow, and for two years previous to my story had been a veritable terror in a district 100 miles square.

For a minute after the rangers rose up about me not a word was said. Each man was heavily armed, and though I had a rifle in my hands, it would have been folly to move.

"Wall, who are you?" asked the leader, after we had all taken a good look at each other.

I gave him all the information asked for, and was honest in stating the number of the party in pursuit. They did not know that the ranger whom I had seen lying dead had fallen by our bullets, but supposed he had become separated from them as they retreated. When I admitted his death their rage knew no bounds. Had I been a unarmed traveller they would doubtless have taken my life just the same, for this gang had never been known to spare any one. But when they knew that I was one of the party, and was more or less responsible for the death of their comrade, they would have cut me to pieces then and there had it not occurred to them that such a death would be too merciful for me. And, too, they were not aware of the fact that Shaw's party had retreated. After an outburst, lasting three or four minutes, I was disarmed, my pockets emptied, my hat appropriated by one, and my jacket by another, and we set off for the ravine at a dog trot, two of the men going before and the others following after me and striking at every opportunity.

The ravine was a dark and dismal spot, reached by a well-worn path, winding about and making a gradual descent. We went down in single file, and when we finally got to the bottom I found

### A HUT MADE OF BRUSH

and limbs and rock, with the numerous evidences that the place had long been occupied as headquarters. It had now come to be sundown, and as nothing had been heard from Shaw's party since my capture the outlaws reasoned that they had given up the pursuit. I got a pretty good look at the surroundings and, as near as I could make out the path was the only way out of the ravine. As we came down one of the men took his seat on a rock, with his revolver in hand, to act as guard, and as I got no orders, I sat down on another rock near the hut. One of the men started a fire, another cut some meat, and a third went down the ravine and got a can of water at a spring. While supper was preparing the leader of the gang took a long pull at the whiskey jug and then came and stood in front of me and indulged in a tirade of oaths, threats, and abuse. He swore he'd clean out every ranchman in the district, and that he would have twenty lives for the death of his comrade. He boasted of the number of his victims and the amount of his plunder and ended up by declaring that I should be skinned alive and my head sent to Shaw as a reminder of what was in store for him. I made no answer, knowing that anything I could say would only add to his fury. I was hopeless. I could not figure out the slightest chance to escape my impending fate.

### The Kissing Compact.

Thus writes the author of *Girl's Gossip in London Truth*:—Why can we not do as men do, and write to each other only when we really have something to say? And why must we kiss each other every time we meet? Kisses are really not agreeable greetings to exchange. Very few people know how to bestow or receive them in a neat and satisfactory fashion. A slovenly kiss is really a detestable article, and makes one dislike and despise the bestower. Of all my girlfriends who kiss me when we meet, there is only one from whose osculatory greeting I do not involuntarily shrink. Some butts at the kisses with lips made into a hard ball for the purpose. These almost give one the tooth-ache. Others bestow their dewy lips upon one's cheek in a way that makes the recipient grimace hastily, but furiously for a poke-handkerchief. A third contingent kiss in a cold and chilling way that says plainly enough, "I kiss you because I suppose you expect it of me." I always sympathize with these, and would gladly fall in with their views. Amy, do let us make a Non-Kissing Compact Company, and see how many of our acquaintances will join it. The rules would not forbid a kiss after a long absence, nor would it interfere with lovers' kisses or anything of that sort, but only combat the custom of daily greetings by osculation. I feel quite sure that woman's friendships would be firmer and more durable if they would abandon all such heavy demands upon it. Do you agree with me?

### He Observes the Rule.

Friend—Do you still continue to send matter to the newspapers, Cholly?  
Cholly—Yes; but it's merely for good faith and not necessarily for publication.

### A Natural Consequence.

Confectionery and Ice Cream Man—We'll lose ten of our best customers next week.  
Assistant—We will? Are they going to Oklahoma?  
No; they're going to get married.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

Sealing-wax, or a mixture of asphalt and gutta-percha melted and thoroughly incorporated with each other, will mend hard rubber.

Papier-mache articles should be cleaned with soap and warm water, and finally polished with a little sweet-oil in which half the quantity of bee's-wax has been melted.

Lavender-water, a most useful adjunct to the toilet, is made by adding an ounce of the essential oil of lavender and two drachms of ambergris to a pint of proof spirit of wine. Place in a quart bottle, and shake the mixture long and well. It should not be used for a day or two.

Berlin-wool-work, especially the lighter colours, is very apt to catch the dirt; but it may be cleaned by dipping and agitating it in a soapy lather. It must on no account be rubbed or wrung; and, when the dirt has been extracted by this means, it must be well rinsed in plenty of water hung to drip, and then pulled into shape and stretched to dry.

The Italian Admiralty have recently carried out a number of experiments with a view of testing the comparative merits of castor-oil and olive oil for lubricating purposes on board ship. From the results obtained, they have given orders that henceforth all exposed parts of machinery are to be lubricated exclusively with castor-oil, while mineral oils are to be used for cylinder and similar lubrication.

One often reads pathetic stories of pet birds that die simultaneously with or shortly after their child-owners. It sounds pretty; but the simple prose of the matter often is that the owners infected the birds. Canaries and other songsters will catch scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria, or almost any other human disease, and, if left in the sick-room, they are almost sure to be infected. Pet cats and small dogs, too, are often sacrificed in the same way; and in their case there is also the risk that they will go out and become the unwitting instruments of disseminating disease.

Cherry stain; Mix together, by stirring, one quart of spirits of turpentine, one pint of japan, one pound of Venetian red ground in oil, and two ounces of dry burnt umber. Apply with a brush, and wipe off with a cloth; finish with one coat of shellac and two coats of varnish. A thin solution of permanganate of potassa in hot water will make a good walnut colour. Apply several coats, allowing plenty of time for drying between each coat. Boiled oil may be used as a polish. If a little turpentine is added to the oil, it will work easier. A very fine mahogany stain is made by boiling eight ounces of fustic in one gallon of water. The old rule is to streak the wood before it is quite dry with black stain to produce the grain of mahogany.

We have in the case of electrical waves along a wire a disturbance outside the wire and a current within it; and the equations of Maxwell allow us to calculate these with perfect accuracy and give all the laws with respect to them. We thus find, says Mr. H. A. Rowland, that the velocity of propagation of the waves along a wire, hung far away from other bodies and made of good conducting material, is that of light, or one hundred and eighty-five thousand miles per second; but, when it is hung near any conducting matter, like the earth, or enclosed in a cable and sunk into the sea, the velocity becomes much less. When hung in space, away from other bodies, it forms as it were, the core of a system of waves in the ether, the amplitude of the disturbance becoming less and less as we move away from the wire. But the most curious fact is that the electric current penetrates only a short distance into the wire, being mostly confined to the surface, especially where the number of oscillations per second is very great.

A method of treatment for foreign bodies in the stomach, which appears to be practised with almost uniform success in both England and on the Continent, consists in the administration simply of large amounts of potatoes, to which the diet should be restricted. Potatoes, as is well known, are composed of nearly twenty per cent. of carbohydrates, eighty per cent. of the solids being starch and cellulose. On account of this large amount of carbohydrate, a great portion will resist the action of the digestive juices. The cellulose and other carbohydrates increasing greatly in volume from imbibition with water lead to an accumulation of an immense amount of indigestible residue; consequently the intestinal tube is, throughout the entire time of the administration of this food, filled with large masses of non-absorbable matter. The folds of the intestine become obliterated, and fixation of the foreign body in the intestinal tube is thus avoided. It seems that from five to nine days, or even longer, are required for the evacuation of the foreign body; and in every case which does not seem desperate a trial of this simple plan of treatment should precede recourse to gastrostomy. In fact, at a recent meeting of the Vienna Medical College Professor Billroth said that since the introduction of this procedure gastrostomy for foreign bodies should become an obsolete operation.

### Recovered for Spits.

The chuckling and other symptoms of satisfaction led the Oxford County man to tell another story, says *The Lewiston (Me.) Journal*.

"A woman up our way was very sick," said he. "She grew worse and worse, and the doctor finally gave her up. She had fought a good fight for life, but at last made up her mind that she was going to die and said her parting words to her friends. Last of all she had a talk with her husband.

"Yes, Mirandy," said he, dropping a tear.

"I ain't like some women, John. I want you to be happy and have a companion through life."

"Yes, Mirandy."

"Yes, I want you to marry again, and I've been thinking that one of Mr. Smith's girls would make you an excellent wife."

"Yes, Mirandy, I've been thinking of that same thing myself."

"You have, eh? you brute! You better wait till I'm gone before you pick out another wife! Oh, you wretch! Fixing your heart on another woman before your first wife's under the ground! But you shant have her. I'm going to get well just to spite you and Ann Smith."

"The woman was true to her promise. To everybody's astonishment she recovered and lived to attend her husband's funeral."

## SICILIAN BRIGANDAGE.

It is Carried On on a Smaller Scale Than Formerly.

In the case of a recent elaborate report on the trade and general condition of Sicily, says the *London Times*, Mr. Stigand, the British consul at Palermo, states that brigandage on the grand scale may be said to have been suppressed in Sicily since the destruction of Leone and his band some ten years ago. He was the last notorious brigand and of the Fra Diavolo type and his exploits attracted much attention in England through his capture of Mr. Rose, one of the present proprietors of the sulphur mines at Lerocca, whom he carried off to the mountains and who was not delivered from his captivity without the payment of a heavy ransom, after vain efforts of the authorities and of the British consul to obtain his release in other ways. But it cannot be said that there is no feeling of insecurity, and the distress which prevails among the rural and mining populations of the island has increased such feeling. People still go armed in many districts of the interior, and landed proprietors when they visit their estates usually take the precaution of going unexpect, and keeping their movements as secret as possible, and, when they are meditating a return journey, usually give out a different and later day for their departure. The authorities when applied to respecting the safety of a district always declare it to be safe; but, at the same time, if they know persons are travelling who would be worth catching or robbing, take care to have the roads well watched, and sometimes escorts are provided. Groups of malandrini, or highwaymen, are formed from time to time who stop and rob people on the high roads, and even sometimes rob post carriages escorted by carabinieri. One gentleman was seized on his property last year near Alcamo, in the province of Trapani, and, although he escaped, his son was shot and himself wounded in the proceedings which led to the rescue. This outrage was committed by a band of four desperadoes who kept the country in terror for some months, but were at last surrounded in a retired house by bodies of police and soldiery to the number of about 200. The robbers kept this whole force at bay for some hours, killing one man and wounding others, and only surrendered at last after a parley with a military officer by which it was arranged that their lives should be spared. The objects of these depredations are usually, however, small farmers and agriculturists, with whose habits the robbers are acquainted. A contractor was relieved last year of a considerable sum of money close to Palermo, but then it was known that he was to pass that way provided with funds for the payment of his workmen. Stories of such robberies appear pretty frequently in the newspapers, but foreigners are not attacked, although, if the occasion presented itself and they thought the prey was worth the risk, they would not be spared any more than the Sicilians.

## WHEN THEY WERE NEW.

- First jury, 907.
- Pins made, 1450.
- Needles used, 1544.
- Matches made, 1829.
- First cast iron, 1544.
- First newspaper, 1494.
- Coal used as fuel, 1834.
- Surnames used in 1162.
- First gold coin, B. C. 206.
- Tobacco introduced, 1533.
- First steam railroad, 1830.
- Lead pencils used in 1594.
- Window glass used in 694.
- First postage stamp, 1847.
- Kerosene introduced, 1826.
- Electric light invented, 1874.
- Fire insurance, marine, 533.
- First American express, 1821.
- First wheeled carriages, 1559.
- First illuminating gas in 1792.
- Iron found in America in 1815.
- Latin ceased to be spoken, 580.
- Musical notes introduced, 1328.
- Bible translated into Saxon, 637.
- Gunpowder used by Chinese, 89.
- Old testament finished, B. C. 220.
- Bible translated into Gothic, 872.
- Photographs first produced, 1802.
- Emancipation proclamation, 1863.
- Paper made by Chinese, B. C. 220.
- Bible translated into English, 1534.

## MARCEAU.

The Exhumation of the Remains of the French General.

The remains of Marceau, which have been deposited in the Pantheon, were exhumed at Nice. Workmen there slowly raised the slab which covered the tomb containing the ashes of the general and the bodies of his sister and brother-in-law. As the ground was being carefully searched, M. Noel-Parfait read aloud the minutes which related to the burial of Marceau in 1837. Soon the workmen brought to light a broken vase in red pottery covering an urn in white china which was also fractured, and which appeared to be filled with earth and coal. M. Noel-Parfait urged the workmen to take the greatest care over their task, and asked for a newspaper for the purpose of enclosing the broken urn. A copy of the *Petit Marseillais* was handed to him. In the middle of the urn was an oblong leaden box, 25 centimetres by 10, bearing a copper plate with the following inscription: "Marceau, General of the Republic." All present uncovered their heads as the box was brought to the surface. M. Noel-Parfait delivered a short speech in feeling terms, adding: "His ashes are here, but his name is everywhere." The authorities present divided the debris of the vase among themselves; and M. Noel-Parfait took possession of the leaden box in the name of the government.

## An Adventuressome Lady.

It is reported from Milan that the Baroness Caioni, a young lady of nineteen, celebrated for her beauty as well as for her startling originality, has announced her intention of undertaking a journey into the interior of Africa. She will be accompanied by a relative, an elderly lady belonging to the Austrian aristocracy, and attended by several male and female servants. An officer in the Italian army has undertaken to lead the expedition, and is already busily engaged in making arrangements. The party will set out on November 1, and the tour will last for a year. After a call at Aden, Massowah will be visited, and thence the Baroness with her followers will penetrate into the interior of the continent.—(N. Y. Post.)

## STATISTICS.

Of 51,857,775 lbs of yarn imported into India last year all exceeds about 500,000 lbs came from the United Kingdom.

In Ireland last year the corn crops generally showed an increased acreage of 8,714 acres, the increase in wheat being 33,204 acres and in barley 8,783 acres, while oats, the most important corn-crop in Ireland, were less by 35,199 acres.

The issue to the public of specimen coins of the new designs adopted in 1887 and of the medals struck in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee began in June, 1887, and was brought to a close in December last. No less than 1,084 sets of specimen coins—beside individual pieces—were sold, and 4,790 medals, of which 944 were gold, 2,289 silver and 4,257 bronze.

The coal-producing area of the world, so far as known, is about 400,000 square miles, of which about three-fourths is in the United States and one fourth in Great Britain. But Great Britain is estimated to possess 200,000,000,000 tons of fossil fuels. At the same rate, the United States possesses 4,000,000,000,000 tons, and the world, it is presumed, about 6,000,000,000,000 tons, allowing for as yet undiscovered deposits.

A study of the statistics of urban population shows that during the past 40 years the rate of increase in the population of the principal cities of Europe and America has been much greater than that of the population of the globe. In this period, nearly every large community which possessed fair natural advantages has increased its population from 100 to 200 per cent., while the total increase of inhabitants is estimated at 40 per cent. In a large portion of Europe, from one half to two thirds of the population is crowded into cities. In the United States the older States exhibit similar conditions.

The herds of the Australasian colonies furnish 884,000 cattle for slaughter annually, of which 743,080 are required for home-consumption, leaving 141,000 available for export. As the population increases by 4 per cent. annually, while the herds increase on an average only 1 per cent., the demand is expected to overtake the supply in six years. The flocks furnish 11,951,885 sheep for slaughter annually, 5,716,000 being required in the colonies and 6,235,885 being available for export. The increase in sheep is 3.62 per cent. per annum; and at this rate the surplus will not be estimated, but trebled upon. In 1888 only about one-sixth of this surplus was exported as frozen meat.

## The Care of the Finer Nails.

The half-moon, which is esteemed so great a beauty, if carefully attended to, will increase in time, and even when it has been almost obliterated, will grow to be very beautiful, says "Medical Classics." Many people think that pushing the skin back from the nail will show it more, and that by this practice the delicate hem, as we call it, which holds the upper and under skins together, is totally destroyed, and the ends of the fingers have an ugly yellow growth encircling the nail instead of the delicate framework which nature intended. Then the way in which the nails are cut can totally change the shape of the fingers. By cutting the nails close at the sides and keeping the corners from adhering to the skin, hang-nails can be avoided. Where the nails are thin and inclined to break, frequent oiling is necessary, and should never be polished except when some oily substance is used beside the powder. This keeps the nails more pliable, and no matter how thin they are, if properly treated they are no more liable to break than thicker ones. Another thing that is bad for the nails is polishing them too roughly. They should be lightly touched and not rubbed until they become heated. This is one cause of white spots coming on the nail and marring its beauty.—[Ex.]

## Heat and Hydrophobia in Russia.

An Odessa correspondent writes:—Never within the memory of the oldest British resident here has such intolerable heat prevailed in this region of Southern Russia. Deaths from sunstroke occur almost daily even among the native labourers. For the last ten days the thermometer has never registered less than 144 degrees at noon. One day last week it was 130 in the shade. Out of reach of artificial irrigation all vegetation is parched and withered. The long scorching days, unbroken by even a passing thunderstorm succeed each other with perfect regularity. Even after sundown there is no breeze; and the nights are so sultry that sleep is impossible. A sunshade is necessary as early as five a.m. On one day alone 21 cases of bites from rabid dogs were received at the station, and during the last 20 days no fewer than 38 cases of hydrophobia occurred within the city, and were treated by Pasteur's system of inoculation.

## Surprise Gowns.

Surprise gowns, says the *London "Court Journal"*, are the latest thing of the moment. The one included in this trousseau had two aspects, a pretty, tender green cashmere, with a rather plain skirt, and a double-breasted jacket to match. When, hey presto! the two fronts of the skirt open and are fastened to a button at the back, showing a pink silk skirt very boldly embroidered in black and gold, and also the reverse. The jacket turns back also to show a waistcoat and linings equally resplendent. Armed with such a gown the wearer is ready for any emergency.

## The Volume of Niagara Falls.

The amount of water passing over Niagara Falls varies with the height of the river. Prof. W. D. Gannett estimates the average amount at 18,000,000 cubic feet per minute. Allowing 62½ pounds to the cubic foot; this would give a total of 562,500 tons per minute, or 25,312,500 tons in 45 minutes, of which somewhat more than two-thirds passes over the Horseshoe Falls. Other estimates place the total amount passing over both falls as high as 100,000,000 tons per hour. In comparison, the recent flood at Johnstown was a gill.

## No Trimming.

Undertaker—"What kind of trimming will you have on the casket?"  
Widow—"None whatever. A plain casket. It was trimming that killed him."  
U.—"What?"  
W.—"Yes. Delirium trimmings."