



A Delightful Book for Christmas

Alice of old Vincennes, by Maurice Thompson, Toronto; William Briggs. This is a most charming book. It will hold the reader from first to last page by the abundance of incident; it will win his heart by the winsome picture of the heroine; it will gratify his literary susceptibilities by its beautiful English. In fact, it is quite easy to imagine many readers "raving" over this story it is so full of attractiveness. It would be too bad to tell the story, but an inkling will indicate its drift. Then buy and read. Alice is the adopted daughter of Gaspard Roussillon, the most important individual in Vincennes, an outpost of commercial and military importance on the Ohio river, in the revolutionary days of 1776-1783. She is a combination of innate refinement, curious learning and accomplishments, rustic ways and most dazzling beauty of face and form. The hero is a young Virginian officer, second in command of the post when the Americans held the fort, and a prisoner and then a fugitive, when the English capture and hold it. He brings about its release and Alice's safety by a series of wonderful adventures and their reunion is most graphically portrayed. He is an ideal hero; she is the ideal heroine. There is incident enough to be thrilling and not too weary, fighting enough with soldiers and Indians to keep the blood up and yet not so much as to be gory; love enough to satisfy the ardent; and here and there are scattered the little character studies that one would expect from Maurice Thompson. Altogether Alice of Vincennes should rank with Janice Meredith, When Knighthood was in Flower and King Nennet, for plot, characterization and style. E. A. Hardy B.A.

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HE STOLE A FORTUNE

AND YET HE WAS AN HONEST AND FAITHFUL BANK EMPLOYEE.

The Directors Did Not Think His Honesty Was to His Credit, and He Adopted a Novel Method of Making Them Change Their Minds.

They were sitting in the cafe of a big hotel up town and, being Wall street men, were discussing financial institutions. One of them was commenting on the ease with which bank employees at times steal money when he was interrupted by another of the party.

"Do you see that man over there looking in at the door?" He pointed to a man with a commanding figure, keen eyes and an aristocratic bearing, who, as he spoke, turned away from the entrance to the cafe.

"There goes a man who stole \$600,000 and never went to jail for it. For that, he is a thoroughly honest man."

This paradoxical statement caused a general look of inquiry and a chorus of "How was that?"

"Then this man—call him Brown, because that's his name—was a trifle more than a year ago paying teller in one of the largest banks in the neighborhood of Wall street. He was quiet and reserved and apparently had few friends and acquaintances. He seemed to live for business alone, and his coworkers in the bank dubbed him 'the sphinx.'"

"At the meeting of the bank directors one day the secretary read a letter from Mr. Brown. In it he apologized for obtaining personal matters upon the august body, but he respectfully asked for a raise of salary. He was to be married, he said, and he felt that his salary of \$2,500 a year was inadequate to his needs. The usual formula followed, in which he spoke of his long and faithful services and ended by requesting that he be raised to \$3,500 a year. No action was taken on the letter at the time. It passed into the pile of 'unfinished business' and was soon forgotten."

"A week later the directors held another meeting. In the course of it Mr. Brown begged for a hearing and renewed verbally his request for an advance of salary. The directors, some of them crusty old codgers who had made their fortunes, did not take kindly to the proposition."

"Why, Mr. Brown," said one, "we think you are receiving a good salary for the position you occupy. Paying tellers at \$2,500 a year are plentiful. We know you have been a good and faithful servant, and in return we have paid you for your services. That's about even, isn't it?"

"Yes, sir; I admit that," said Brown, "but there are certain moral obligations to be considered. For instance, I have had free access to the enormous wealth of this bank. Millions of dollars have passed through my hands, and my accounts have been right to a penny. Had I desired—"

"Oh, that's absurd, you know," broke in another director. "Our system here is so perfect that it would be impossible for any one to take a dollar and not be detected."

"Brown smiled a bitter sort of smile and, apologizing for his temerity, abruptly withdrew. It was noticed that on his way to his desk he paused a minute at the cavernous aperture that marked the entrance to the vault. A few minutes later he left the bank and did not return. That evening as the accounts for the day were being balanced it was found there was a shortage of \$600,000 in the funds. Instantly there was consternation. The president and directors were summoned to a conference. Quick action was necessary. In the morning the news of the delinquency would be public, and practical ruin stared them in the face.

"Early next morning Brown was in his usual place. He looked calm and as imperturbable as ever. The directors came in to discuss the best course to pursue. Brown was sent for to see if he could throw any light upon the subject.

"Mr. Brown," said one of the directors, "this bank has been robbed of \$600,000."

"Yes, sir," said Brown. "I took it."

"His hearers started. 'You,' gasped one, "you who prated to us of honesty? Why, what do you mean? Do you know?"

"Yes, sir, I know all about it. The worst you can do is to give me ten years' imprisonment. Allowing for commutation for good behavior, the sentence will be reduced between two and three years. At the expiration of that time I will still have the \$600,000 to live upon. Now let me submit a proposition. You sign a paper acquitting me of all blame and guaranteeing me immunity against punishment, and I will return to you \$300,000, reserving the balance to support myself in some foreign country. Then there will be no scandal. The credit of the bank will be preserved, and you will be a gainer by the transaction."

"There was silence for a moment, then one of the directors said: 'We must have time to consider this. Please withdraw until we have discussed the matter.'"

"Brown smiled and went out. Fifteen minutes later he was sent for.

"We accept your terms," Mr. Brown, said one of the magnates stilly. "Give us \$300,000, and we will agree not to prosecute."

"Half an hour later Brown handed over to the directors \$300,000. The money was carefully counted, a receipt given for it and in addition a document signed by all present insuring him against all legal complications.

"Brown turned as if to go. There was a dramatic pause; then, drawing a bulky package from his pocket, he tossed it on the table, saying carelessly: 'There is the other \$300,000, gentlemen. I had no wish to steal from you. I am an honest man, no matter what may be my other failings.'"

"I made a fair request of you and was told that honesty was not considered in the affairs of this institution—at least that was the purport of your words. I simply wanted to show you what a comparatively easy matter it would be to wreck your institution despite your vigilance in guarding the funds. That is all I wish to say. Good morning."

"Mr. Brown, whom you saw going up stairs," concluded the narrator of this true tale, "is now the president of the bank from which he stole \$900,000."

The "White Man's Big Slew" Westralian Argus call Sydney "the white man's big slew." A local Englishman bishop is the authority for this.—Sydney

THE VERDICT.

Li Hung Ching and the allies will try to talk the Chinese situation to a finish.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A woman in Ohio has secured a license to run an engine. Running things is the specialty of the sex just now, and there is no good reason discernible why engines should be exempted from the general lot.

Russia is to adopt the metric system, and when she has done this only the United States and the United Kingdom, among nations of any commercial importance, will adhere to their ancient and complicated systems of weights and measures.—New York Journal of Commerce.

The Chicago school board is short of money and talks of closing the kindergartens. This would be starting economy at the wrong end. The upper ten should be cut off before the lower ten thousand. The public schools should be conducted for the greatest good of the greatest number.

Mr. Goldwin Smith thinks that suicide is on the increase, and he has a remedy for it. That remedy is marriage. If a man lives by himself, he will develop an unwelcome habit of introspection and so become despondent. The married man, on the other hand, is busy and cheerful, or if he is not he ought to be.—Galveston News.

American railroad equipments are supplanting the French articles on the new underground line in Paris. It appears that the engineer who built the line and who spent six years in this country investigating methods of electric traction is convinced of the superiority of American made appliances. This is another victory for American workmanship.

PEN, PENCIL AND BRUSH.

James Whitcomb Riley, the poet, is considering a proposition for delivering several lectures in England this winter.

Walter Crane, the artist, has just given two lectures on art in Budapest in connection with an exhibition of his work in the art museum of that city.

When Richard Le Gallienne arrived in New York from Europe recently, he was so changed in appearance that few familiar with his face knew him. While in Europe he cut the long, flowing black hair which has always distinguished him in the past and most deeply impressed his face upon the memory.

F. Hopkinson Smith has just returned from abroad. He says: "I went over in June for my annual jaunt. This time I painted on the Thames, in Holland and in Venice. The Thames is a new subject for me. The greater part of the work which I did on the Thames was done at Coleham, an hour out of London. This is one of the prettiest parts of the river."

The father of M. Edmond Rostand, the author of "L'Aiglon," is also a poet who combines versifying with clever articles on social economy in French reviews. He is also a member of the officership of the Legion of Honor; he implored the government to grant the same distinction to "Le Pere Cyrano," as M. Eugene Rostand is playfully called by his friends.

THE DOMINIE.

Rev. J. C. Brooks, brother of the late Bishop Brooks, is at work upon a collection of the bishop's letters.

The Episcopalian of the Milwaukee (Wis.) diocese favor strongly the appointment of a coadjutor bishop as assistant to Bishop Isaac L. Nicholson.

The archbishop of Sens will be authorized to lend the pallium of Thomas a Becket in the chapter house treasury for the opening of the new Roman cathedral at Westminster. The stag and crozier of Becket are already in Cardinal Vaughan's possession.

Rev. William E. Mallian, Methodist Episcopal bishop of Massachusetts, recently delivered an address, in the course of which he said that he hoped his hearers would not read such books as "David Harum," which "reeked of rum, profanity and tobacco."

The new Methodist college to be built in Rome is to have its main building named Crandon hall in honor of Mrs. F. P. Crandon of Evanston, Ills., who is corresponding secretary of the northwestern branch of the Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary society did much toward raising the money for the college.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Use borax or ammonia instead of soap in washing blankets. This will keep them soft and help to preserve the brightness of the colored stripes.

The wise woman does not attempt to save washing by using clothing, towels, napkins, etc., till they are very dirty. The extra rubbing they require balances the work saved and proves poor economy because of the additional wear on them.

Blood stains are about as difficult as any to get out. Here starch comes into use. Make a thin paste and spread on the stain. Leave it to dry. Then brush off. Generally the stain will go with the starch. The worst stains, however, will require several applications of the starch.

TOWN TOPICS.

The Philadelphia street railways are to have smoking cars. Better make it sleeping cars.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Work is to be rushed on the Chicago postoffice, and our children's children, if not our children themselves, may live to see it completed.—Chicago Post.

The Sedalia street railway will inaugurate a 3 cent fare the 1st of November as an experiment for the winter months, and if it proves satisfactory this year it will be used again next. This arrangement will continue six months, or until May 1. The 3 cent fares will not be good for transfers.—Sedalia (Mo.) Sentinel.

THE AIRSHIP.

Given years of constant improvement and increased knowledge of aerial navigation, and the Zeppelin airship may yet prove to be the forerunner of as great a fleet of airships as those which now navigate the waters of the earth.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

That Count Zeppelin has constructed an airship capable of being steered for five minutes against the wind is an immense step forward. The dream of a century that men should some day traverse the air as easily as they now traverse land and sea may be within measurable distance of realization.—New York

FOR SALE!

Three Houses and one vacant Lot on Kent-st., west of Robson's store, also House No. 5 Glenelg-st., west. Contemplating a change in business I will sell the above at right prices and easy terms. Apply to

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