

DIPLOMACY.

And Miss Jane Finally Obtained the Pillow She Wanted. Miss Jane's eyes beamed with anticipation as she looked at the two soft pillows lying side by side on the center-table in her friend's sitting room.

It was impossible for Miss Jane to pass through the sitting room without pausing a moment to survey the pillows. In one the light and dark red puffs alternated. In the other they were not arranged in order, and it seemed as if Miss Jane's eyes dwelt more persistently and wistfully on it.

Both women stood at the table and looked first at the gay pillows, then at each other. "I know Anne'd like this odd one best," said Miss Jane, indicating the alternated one, and trying to put a doleful note into her heavy voice.

"Oh, no!" Miss Jane answered at once, perhaps a trifle hastily. "Give Anne the nicest—I mean—the this one—because—well, you know nursing's hard work, Emma!"

"But 'tain't any harder'n running about all day tending a cranky woman," Emma declared. "If you want the alternated one, Jane, you're going to have it, I say. Didn't I make those pillows?"

"Yes, Emma." "Then I'll give you the alternated one, Jane. Here, it's yours." Miss Jane gently deposited the pillow extended to her on the table again, and faced her hostess.

"But, Emma—I—don't you see—I—Anne's been an awful good friend to me—I'd rather have her have this—I—give this to Anne!"

"The hostess's eyes flashed dangerously; then she spoke. "Why?" she demanded, harshly.

Miss Jane lifted the neglected pillow, blushing as she did so. "Cause—I want—this—" she stammered, weakly but bravely.

"BURLIARY AS A FINE ART. No Longer Practiced, Bank Operators Being Generally Tramped. Not many years ago the bank burglar was looked up to by other criminals with something like reverence.

HONORED IN THE NAME.

On the lower Mississippi a name which catches the eye frequently, painted in big letters on the sides of steamboats, on the signs of ship-brokers or cotton-factors, and in many other places is "Rees." It is a name about which clings many of the best traditions of the river.

His big boat-yard at Pittsburg was known from source to sea along the Western waters. During his long life he built more than four hundred stern- and side-wheel vessels to run on them, and going outside of America, built the first steamboats for the Volga fleets for the Danube, and craft for other rivers of Europe and Asia.

But the deed for which he is best remembered and which made his name most popular occurred at the close of the Civil War. Hundreds of steamboats were destroyed in that struggle, and as the life of a river boat was then usually only five years, there were few which came through it fit for use.

At this crisis Captain Rees wrote to all his old associates on the river, found which of them were unable to obtain a new start in business, and for each of the rest built in his ship-yard a stern-wheel or side-wheel steamboat suited to the Red River trade—then the richest trade on the river.

He delivered these boats to the owners, with fuel and provisions aboard, says the Louisville Courier-Journal, and ready to start at once for freight. The cost averaged about seventy-five dollars each.

The matter of repayment was left entirely to the men to whom the boats were given. Indefinite credit was extended to them; but it is a matter of tradition that every boat was soon paid for out of the profitable trade into which it entered.

TOO MUCH FOR THE CHIEF. He Couldn't Stand Having a Mule Fired at Him. The Indian, stolid as he looks, possesses a sense of humor which sometimes displays itself at unexpected times.

Custer, following a band of hostile Indians, drove them up to a region of mountains and ravines. At one time he made an all-night march, and in the morning came upon a group of unsuspecting red men.

Meanwhile, troops had descended the other side of the bluff, and were searching the woods beneath. After a time they came back with a large number of Indians and one chief, known to be very warlike and cunning.

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MARK TWAIN ON A HIGH WHEEL.

Humorist Recalls His Fondness as 50 for a Nine-Foot Bicycle. Suzy's next date is Nov. 29, 1895, the eve of my fiftieth birthday, says Mark Twain in his autobiography in the North American Review.

I was trying to tame an old-fashioned bicycle nine feet high. It is to me almost unbelievable, at my present stage of life, that there have really been people willing to trust themselves upon a dizzy and unstable altitude like that, and that I was one of them.

I didn't always go over the front way; I had other ways and practiced them all. But no matter which way was chosen for me there was always one momentous result—the bicycle skinned my leg and leaped up into the air and came down on top of me.

It was full of enthusiasm over this insane amusement. My teacher was a young German from the bicycle factory, a gentle, kindly, patient creature with a pathetically grave face.

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His Attempt Was Vain. They had been having a discussion concerning the necessity or otherwise of purchasing a new silk dress in order to be on a level with the De Moneys next door.

"Dinner ready, my dear?" he asked in his most conciliatory manner. Her face had been like a stale thunder-storm ever since the disagreement, and Banks wanted to change it.

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