

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assembled for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Stratford will build a new city hall. Lord and Lady Aberdeen are at Vancouver.

The 30th Battalion Band at Guelph has disbanded.

The Bell Telephone Company has reduced its rates in London.

The C. P. R. land sales for July totalled \$9,500 acres, realizing \$13,000.

A couple of skeletons were dug up on St. Joseph street, Quebec, on Tuesday.

Henry Tanly has been appointed manager of the Kingston Locomotive Works.

The C. P. R. telegraph rates to the Kootenay have been reduced to \$1 for ten words.

Superintendent Frank Pedley of Immigration has started on a tour of United States agencies.

Ten thousand acres of the Manitoba University land grant will be placed on the market this year.

A laborer in Kingston named Thomas Walsh died on Friday morning from the effects of a sunstroke.

The crop outlook in Nova Scotia is very satisfactory. There is a notable increase in the acreage of wheat.

A horse belonging to Contractor Corbett, of London, is dead there from lockjaw. It stepped on a nail.

The "peg-legs" so far arrested in connection with the murder of the London policeman Tooley, number 28.

It is said that the session of the Quebec Legislature will not be held before the second week in January.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been obliged to decline an invitation to lecture before the Y. M. C. A. at Detroit.

A Halifax undertaking firm is busy with a rush order for metal lined coffins. It is said they are to be shipped to Cuba.

Lieut. Col. Sherwood, chief of the Dominion Police, will, it is probable, go to England to bring back Capt. Theriault, the absconding militia officer.

The late George Dawson, of London, left \$10,000 to the Age-Incurables, and \$500 to the Home for the Incurable, and \$500 to the Infants' Home there.

Formal notice is given that the Reliance Marine Insurance Company has ceased to carry on business in Canada, and applies for a release of securities.

Bellefleur citizens will vote on the question of reducing the number of aldermen from 21 to 11, on Aug. 19.

New regulations and rules to govern the Canadian printed office have been adopted and printed in the Canada Gazette.

A returned Klondiker at Montreal says the recent reports of thirty million dollar washings are very much exaggerated.

Prof. J. A. Rudick, Superintendent of the Kingston Dairy School, has returned the Dairy Commissionship of New Zealand.

B. Battery will, return to Quebec from Halifax on August 21, when the Royal Artillery detachment will go back to their old quarters.

Dr. S. E. Dawson and Lieut. Col. Anderson, chief engineer of the Marine Department, have been appointed members of the Geographic Board of Canada.

It is reported at Victoria, B. C., that the steamer Hamlin was wrecked in a collision with the steamer McConnell on the Stikine river. No lives were lost.

Hamilton ratepayers have voted against the operation of the street railway by the city and in favour of extending the present company's franchise for 15 years.

The Champlain statue, which alone weighs 9,000 pounds, and which was recently brought out on the steamship Californian, will be shortly placed in position in Quebec.

Mormon settlers of Cardston, Man., deny the charge of Rev. Dr. Robertson, in a recent address at Regina, that they are violating the marriage laws of Canada.

There was a heavy hailstorm at Burnside, Man., on Tuesday night. Some of the stones were seven inches in circumference. The storm extended east as far as Portage la Prairie.

A rumor is current on the Pacific coast that the Imperial Government is about to acquire the whole site of Esquimaut Village for the purpose of fortification works and dock extension.

In view of the criticisms that have been made with respect to exhibiting his outfit at fairs in competition with other farmers, Premier Greenway has decided not to show his stock again at any Manitoba fair.

The Yukon party from the Interior Department, which left with the military expedition and reached Telegraph Creek some weeks ago, is returning to the Pacific coast to join Commissioner Ogilvie at Wrangell or Dyea.

Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, and Mr. D. Postinger, general manager of the Government Railways, were in Halifax on Saturday in connection with a new elevator, which it is proposed to erect there.

Dr. Saunders, director for the Experimental Farm, has left Ottawa for Winnipeg. He goes to inspect the Experimental Farms in the West, and will meet Mr. Fletcher, the Dominion entomologist, at Agassiz, B. C., in two weeks.

Prof. Saunders, director of Experimental Farms, telegraphs from Brandon that the crops in the eastern and central parts of the West are very good. In south, central and western parts it is said the crops have suffered from lack of early rain, and will be uneven and below the average.

A contract between Quebec and the Great Northern Railway has been signed by His Worship Mayor Parent and the Hon. P. Garneau, president of the company. By this agreement Quebec invests \$200,000 in the stock of the Great Northern and the latter is to give Quebec railway connections with Ferry Sound.

Dr. Coulter, deputy postmaster-general, warns parties using the special quick-delivery stamps not to forget to add the ordinary postage, which the letter should have. This defeats the object of the delivery stamp. The letter should have its regular postage as well as the delivery stamp before the stamp becomes effective.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Emile Zola is traveling incognito in England.

Prof. John Caird, D.D., L.L.D., Glasgow, is dead at the age of 78 years. The Irish local government bill passed its third reading in the House of Lords.

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The postmaster of Scarva, County Down, Ireland, Robert Taylor, is dead at the reported age of 119 years.

Right Hon. James Bryce, M.P., has been selected as President of the recently formed Anglo-American League.

The northwest of Great Britain has been swept by a violent storm which did much damage to the fishing fleets and to the crops.

The famous Hope collection of paintings has been purchased by Asher Wertheimer, a London Eng. dealer in works of art, for \$607,500.

The Earl of Winchelsea's counsel has published a letter denying Mr. Hooley's statement that he was a \$50,000 for acting as Chairman of a company.

The Prince of Wales has started for the Solent. He was carried from his room in Marlborough House on an ambulance couch, which was placed bodily in a hospital ambulance. The Prince and his yacht Osborne has been specially prepared for the use of the royal party.

UNITED STATES.

The shipments of California green fruits so far this season, have exceeded those of last.

Joshua Guest, a Canadian, is reported to have been killed by lightning at Casper Creek, Wyoming.

Ferdinand W. Peck of Chicago, will be United States Commissioner General for the Paris Exposition of 1900.

Four Sisters of Charity of the Delta County, Mich. Hospital are reported to be lost in the woods near Maywood, Mich.

Over 200 labourers of the Cleveland Shipbuilding Co. at Lorain, Ohio, are on strike for an increase of wages from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day.

A San Francisco paper says a contract has been awarded for a cable to connect the United States with Hawaii, the Ladrones, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

The car barn of the Consolidated Traction Company, of Pittsburg, Pa., was completely gutted by fire on Sunday, entailing a loss of about \$175,000; well covered by insurance.

Susie E. Swift, of New York, who is the leading singer in the Salvation Army choir, is reported to be a Dominican nun.

The Beach Hotel, of Galveston, Texas, located on the Gulf front, and one of the leading summer and winter resorts in the south, was burned on Saturday, entailing a loss estimated at \$200,000; to \$250,000.

Of late the Madison Light and Railway Company of Madison, Ind., as a measure of economy, have been employing young women as conductors, but the citizens are resenting the move, and refuse to ride on the cars.

Charles Warren Spalding, the convicted ex-president of the Globe Savings Bank, Chicago, and Sarah Louise Erwin, his former stenographer, were married on Saturday. Spalding is serving an indeterminate sentence in the Joliet penitentiary for wrecking the Globe Bank. An hour after the ceremony, the ex-banker was back in his cell in goal, and the bride had gone away with her father.

GENERAL.

The new Chilean cruiser Almirante O'Higgins has arrived at Valparaiso.

Japan is reinforcing its squadron at Saisho, to make ready, it is thought, for Philippine operations.

A fresh inquiry into the loss of La Bourgoigne has been ordered by the French Minister of Marine.

Italy's naval budget is to be increased because of the proposed additions to the British navy.

She—Can your friend do any tricks with the bicycle? He—I should think so. He succeeded in getting the one he rides on credit.

The Chinese Ambassador at Berlin has left for China by way of the United States—re-called, it is thought, for incapacity.

The rebellion in Kwangsi province, China, is practically ended. Kungun city has been captured by the Government and 1,000 rebels slain.

The Mediterranean squadron has returned to Malta from an interesting visit to Joppa, during which the officers and men, numbering several thousand, visited Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and other sacred spots.

An intimate friend of ex-Queen Liluokalani, of Hawaii, states that when she reaches Honolulu she will issue a protest against the annexation of the island to the United States, and will present a claim for the Crown lands confiscated by the republic.

DE LA WARR WILL DISGORGE.

Adults He Received \$23,000 From Mr. Hooley "In Recognition of Services Rendered."

A despatch from London says—The Earl of de la Warr has issued a statement denying that he accepted money to join any of the companies promoted by Mr. Ernest Hooley, the bankrupt, but he admits that he received about \$23,000 from Mr. Hooley "as gifts in recognition of services rendered," having worked hard in the interests of the companies with which he was connected. Lord de la Warr adds that while he considers himself morally justified in accepting the gift, he does not desire to retain a shilling of the money, and he is taking steps to ascertain the exact amount received, and to refund it. Lord Teatleten and Lord Goschen-Lennox deny that they received money from Hooley.

VERY FOXY.

Henry, she said, disconsolately, you didn't give me a birthday gift.

By Jove, that's so, said Henry, but, you see, you always look so young that I can't realize you ever had birthday days.

Then she was happy, and she smiled the mean, subtle smile of a man who has saved money.



THE LATE PRINCE BISMARCK.

HOW LONG DO THEY LIVE.

What Statistics Show About the Average Life of a Railroadman.

If there is one subject that interests a railroad man more than another it is how long he will live. Whenever you meet a railroad man or a group of them, the subject you will find them discussing, or the first question they will put to you in conversation is: "What is the average life of a trainman?" Railway records dispel the popular idea that the average life of a trainman actively engaged in the railway service is about seven years.

One of the principal roads entering Louisville has compiled statistics on the subject only recently. On that road during the last three years there were only two men killed and 158 injured. Of these men all but two were brakemen, and these two, who were freight conductors, were at the time of the accidents acting as brakemen.

It might be supposed that inexperienced men would be most apt to get injured, but the records show differently. A correspondent of the Railroad Gazette contributes the following table of percentages of injured men according to their term of service: Number of trainmen injured during their first year of service, 12.16 per cent.; in service two years, 11.11 per cent.; in service three years, 16.33 per cent.; in service four years, 20 per cent.; in service five years, 21.77 per cent.; in service six years, 9.63 per cent.; in service seven years, 3.90 per cent.; in service eight years, 4.17 per cent.; in service nine years, 4.16 per cent.; in service ten years, 4.16 per cent.; in service over ten years, and in some instances, 15, 18 and 22 years.

AFTER SIX YEARS SERVICE.

It will be seen that the largest average of injuries occurred after the employees had been in service six years, and the figures given would indicate that the employees as a general rule are careful up to the time when they have been in the service three or four years, and then become more careless until about their eighth year of service, when the figures show that they again become more careful, as those who had worked over ten years have a smaller percentage of injuries than those who worked six years.

With the completion of the equipment of box cars with automatic couplers and air brakes the liability of accidents being injured will be reduced to a minimum. The records showing that at least two-thirds of the accidents were caused by men attempting to couple automatic drawbrakes with a link and pin to the old-fashioned solid or skeleton drawbar. Other accidents were caused by uneven drawbars, some of which vary as much as three inches in height. Many men were injured by stepping on stones or a link in jumping off to throw switches, and several were jerked off the ice-covered tops of cars. A few men were injured while engaged in coupling cars loaded with long lumber or bridge iron, and those who were a thing of the past, since most of the companies require two cars to be used whenever there is long timber to be loaded.

FORMING A NAVAL RESERVE.

Five Hundred Hardy Newfoundland Fishermen to be Enrolled.

A despatch from St. John's, Nfld., says—Mr. George J. Goschen, First Lord of the British Admiralty, has arranged to organize a naval reserve among the Newfoundland fishermen, enrolling 500, who will be drilled by special instructors, sent from England. Ports are being erected specially for this purpose, and the men receiving \$50 each a year for each month engaged. Newfoundland is the only colony where the experiment is being tried.

There is indeed an honest man. He pays all the taxes that he should. Oh, that isn't honesty; that foolishness.

MEN FOR GARRISON DUTY.

The Force in Cuba Will be Partially Made Up of Volunteers, According to Washington Advice.

A despatch from Washington, says—In the event of peace not less than 30,000 troops will be stationed in Cuba for garrison duty.

This is the minimum given to me by an officer of the Government high in authority. This official thinks it quite probable that as many as 50,000 troops will be needed to garrison the main resorts of Cuba. They will, he thinks, not be needed in large numbers at other points. The plan, moreover, is that all Spanish troops now in Cuba shall be sent back to Spain. When I spoke to Adjutant-General Corbin today on this subject he intimated strongly that the United States would probably have to share in the expense of transporting these troops back to the mother country.

The situation in Cuba is being studied now somewhat from the standpoint of peace. Official figures to which I have had access, show that there are 180,000 effective troops in Cuba. There will be nothing left for them to do but to lay down their arms and become pensioners upon the United States Government, or be sent back to their country, partially at least, at the expense of the United States. The latter, it is believed, will be the wiser course.

There is no serious intent on the part of the Administration that the volunteer army shall be dispersed. This army will be kept intact for at least one year, I was told today by an official who more than any other person had to do with the drafting of the Act to provide for temporarily increasing the military establishment in time of war. Some erroneous conclusions have been reached from the reading of this Act. For example, the opening sentence of section four of the Act provides that "the volunteer army shall be maintained only during the existence of the war." But the closing sentence says that "in composing said army shall be discharged from the services of the United States when called into service for which they were accepted into service, or on the conclusion of hostilities." Thus, it is insisted by this high authority, the President may at any time during the two years for which the volunteers are enlisted call them into service for garrison duty, or other service, or to disband the volunteer army, as efficient work is expected to be found for it pending the adjustments following peace. It is safe to say that not less than 75,000 men will be left in Manila, Cuba, and Porto Rico to uphold American interests in those islands.

MORE TROOPS FOR MERRITT.

The Hostile Attitude of the Philippine Insurgents Necessitates a Strong American Force.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says—Although the War Department officials will not admit that they have any intention of reinforcing further General Merritt's forces at Cavite, there is reason to believe that some of the troops now in Eastern camps, who desire to see active service, will soon find the opportunity unless the Government shall change its present plans with respect to the Philippines. It is believed to be necessary even if America's claim is limited to the claims stated in the conditions submitted to Spain, namely, to the military occupation and government of the territory on the shores of the bay of Manila, to furnish to General Merritt a larger force than he has now at his command. It is realized that 20,000 soldiers can scarcely be expected to maintain United States possession and protect the inhabitants over a territory of this extent, for it must be remembered that the bay of Manila is 25 miles from the entrance of Corregidor island to the city of Manila at its head. It will be necessary to possess and protect a zone extending some distance back of the city, in order to make sure of the preservation of the water works.

FEAR AN OUTBREAK.

The officials here make no concealment of their apprehension of serious trouble to follow the execution of the military program in regard to the Philippine insurrection.

The reports of the military and naval commanders have contained warnings of expected conflicts with the insurgents, and no surprise will be felt at the receipt of news that the United States Government feels that it has assumed a moral obligation towards the foreign residents at Manila, but toward the unprotected classes of the Spanish community, women, children, nuns, and priests, and that the insurgents were threatening the lives of some helpless monks, orders were sent to the American military commander to look into the matter, and to act in the interest of civilization and humanity. As, according to report, particular hostilities have shown, it is a reasonable expectation that a collision will have occurred between themselves and the American troops if the latter undertake to interfere in the execution of the vengeance of the insurgents.

WASHINGTON FEARS.

An incident in the Guardianship of President McKinley.

A correspondent writing from Washington details the precautions taken at the White House to protect President McKinley from harm, and gives the following citation of a ludicrous incident in this connection.

Occasionally funny things happen. One of the best known and most respected members of the Treasury staff has been accustomed for some time to buy the fresh eggs for his home table of a clerk in the department, who lives out of town, and has a little poultry yard. The clerk brings in eggs three times a week, and the purchaser, who lives near the department, carries them in a paper parcel or a basket when he goes home at the lunch hour. One day his most convenient receptacle for his eggs happened to be a little leather reticule with a somewhat uncertain handle. He was going home as usual at noon, and took a cut across the White House grounds. It was just after some sensational articles suggestive of dynamite plots had appeared. As he entered the grounds a new policeman who had been stationed near the gate on the treasury side was looking in the officer caught sight of the gingerly carried reticule. In an instant he shouted an order to halt. The anxious civil servant passed on, and the officer shouted again, and at the same time making a significant gesture with his hand, a significant gesture was understood and the man halted. The officer came up.

"What have you in that bag?" he inquired.

"Only some things I am carrying home," was the answer.

"What kind of things?"

"Oh, some household supplies."

The officer was not convinced.

"Let me see them."

By this time several passers by had gathered around, with many blushing the innocent gentleman gently opened the reticule and the officer took a cautious peep inside, evidently expecting to see a stick of dynamite. The expression of his face when he saw instead a dozen cream-colored eggs, was a study. Without exchanging a glance with the suspect he made a quick motion with his hand indicating that the reticule might be closed, turned on his heel and strode majestically away.

If any crank does succeed in terrorizing Washington during the present crisis it will not be because of any lack of vigilance on the part of the police.

NO WORK FOR HIM.

My friend, said the temperance lecturer solemnly, you ought to stop drinking.

Possibly, possibly, returned the other; but if everybody should take your advice did you ever stop to think what you would do for a living?

Now and then a good man runs across a problem that just about takes his breath away.

MANY ACTS OF BRUTALITY.

SPANISH TROOPS WREAK VENGEANCE ON THE PORTO RICANS.

Flames and Etna Mark Their Retreat—Soldiers Firing the Villages and Maltreating the Women and Children as the Army Falls Back.

A despatch from Ponce, Porto Rico, says—The Spanish troops formerly stationed in this part of Porto Rico are rapidly retreating to the interior, leaving behind them a broad path of burning plantations and desolated villages.

Porto Rican refugees, who are coming into Ponce in great numbers, report that unparalleled outrages have been perpetrated by the Spanish soldiers in the villages of Juan Diaz, Coamo, and Adjuntas.

Wild with rage over the American invasion, the Spaniards are reported to be wreaking vengeance upon inoffensive non-combatants, firing their houses, and maltreating the women and children. Some of the acts of brutality reported here are shocking beyond description.

SOLDIERS MALTREAT WOMEN.

The steady stream of terror-stricken refugees that began to pour into Ponce on Saturday night has continued. They are appealing to the United States military authorities for protection, and all the same stories of brutality and violence by the Spaniards are being reported. It seems probable that the situation is worse at Adjuntas than at any other point. This is a small but important town, twenty miles in the interior. A messenger who arrived, said that many women had been maltreated and killed, and their bodies cremated in the Spanish garrison at Adjuntas, comprising two hundred men, had abandoned the place after twenty-four hours of unbridled license.

It is impossible to know these reports, but to know the messengers who bring the news, and declare that they are worthy of credit.

General Wilson, the American military Governor, has questioned the refugees closely, but he cannot send any aid to the suffering Porto Ricans at present. He believes that it would be unwise to scatter the troops at his command until reinforcements arrive here.

Alarming reports are coming. Friday night were calculated, and two lines of pickets were sent out, but the night passed without incident, and the city still is quiet and orderly. A great majority of the citizens are unforgoingly delighted with the American occupation of the city. Spanish sympathizers apparently are confined to native Spaniards and a few German and French residents. These are keeping very quiet.

SPANIARDS ARRESTED.

Considerable excitement was caused on Saturday by the arrest of several Spanish volunteers.

The bitterness engendered by the rebellion of 1897 still exists, and Friday, when political prisoners were set free, they immediately sought revenge upon their former persecutors. They reported that their old enemies were actively engaged in spying, and in otherwise promoting the Spanish interests.

Half a dozen Spanish residents of this city, arrested upon the receipt of a warrant from Porto Rico, were taken to the city hall, followed by a shouting native rabble. When General Wilson learned what was being done he ordered that the Spaniards be released, and he assured them that proceedings would be granted to all the homes of several residents, and strict orders have been issued for the provost guard to prevent any annoyance by the rabble.

HORRORS OF HAVANA.

A Dozen Deaths a Day in the Streets From Starvation—The Only Heat Comes From Horses and Dogs.

A despatch from New York says—Twenty-nine Spanish and French refugees from Havana and Cardenas landed on Tuesday from the Norwegian steamer Fridtjof Nansen from Sagua la Grande. All but two were well supplied with money. Petrona Rivas, with his family, fled from Cuba on the Fridtjof Nansen. "Money, of which there is no scarcity in Havana, is useless in purchasing the necessities of life," said Senor Rivas. "The only meat to be had in Havana before the Nansen left Sagua, on July 26, was from the carcasses of horses and dogs. Every day an average of ten or twelve people died in the streets from starvation. Highway robbery everywhere in the city. The famous Inglaterra Hotel, together with other hotels, has been allowed to close its doors. The land-locked could not secure provisions. Fully 25 per cent. of the big stores had closed their doors." On Thursday night they still have music in the parks, while people are starving all around. Bread has risen to 28 cents per pound, while horseflesh is selling for a dollar per pound.

CURZON HAS ACCEPTED.

Will Become Viceroy of India, Succeding the Earl of Elgin.

A despatch from London, says—It is reported that Mr. George N. Curzon, the Parliamentary Secretary for the Foreign Office, has accepted the office of Viceroy of India, in succession to the Earl of Elgin. He was formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary for India, and is the author of a number of prize essays, including "Russia in Central Asia," "Persia and the Persian Question," and "Problems of the Far East." He is educated at Oxford, and is a gold medalist of the Royal Geographical Society.

Mr. Curzon married Miss Mary Leitner, the daughter of Mr. L. Z. Leitner, of Chicago.

In the Mirage.

The train lumbered slowly into the little village station. Already the light was waning, the sky was clear and opalescent, the air was still. A man and his young wife—a laughing girl—stepped out onto the platform. They had been married that morning. A servant waiting on the platform collected their luggage, and they passed through the dingy booking-office. Outside the sleek carriage horses trotted patiently. A short drive took them to the lonely gray house up the hill among the pines.

Some hours later they sat together in a paneled room overlooking the avenue. On the walls of the room were the things that a great traveler and a great sportsman brings with him. It had grown chilly, and a fire had been lit there. Wax candles burned in brass sconces on each side of the fireplace. The girl was white, as she had been that morning in the church; she leaned back in her chair, still smiling, and showing her white teeth. One hand played with the pearls at her throat, a gesture showing the beautiful curves of her bare arm. The man stood watching her. He was middle-aged, tall, wiry and clean-shaven. His face was tanned; his eyes were exceptional, dark and striking. As she looked out at the tiger-skin rug in front of the fire:

"Did you kill that?" she said.

"The man nodded.

"Yes, I killed it."

"You never tell me enough."

went on half-jestingly, "about this that you have done. What is the back of a traveler if one does not talk laden with stories of wonderful things?" "One tiger story," she replied, "is generally very much another."

"But there are other things," said, "Have you never been captured by brigands? Have you never nearly killed, or experimented with wonderful drugs in Chinese dens, been dying of thirst, or seen the age?"

He sat down in the chair facing her. His expression was one of habitual melancholy, just as hers was one of continual lightheartedness.

"Yes," he said, "I think I can claim to all the other things. I have been captured by brigands, have experimented with hashish, have been nearly dead, have seen the mirage, and—"

He paused.

"Well?" she said, eagerly.

"I have also," he said, "seen in mirage."

"How can that be?" she said, was taught about the mirage in governess days, all about the desert of the air, and the temperature, so on. Sometimes it is taken of houses, sometimes it is a city with temples and people, sometimes it is that sail across the sky, sometimes it is in never real. How could be in a thing which practically does not exist?"

"We had been marching four days, he said, drearily, "the sun was hot by day, but the nights were cold on the morning of the fifth that they turned on me; they were what there was and went off, I was left on the sand for dead; indeed, some hours I must have been dead, watching him, leaning watchfully, watching him, leaning longer smiling. "How long ago was it?"

"Ten, a dozen years ago—when we were bowling your hoop in Kensington Gardens. And most of the weariness, but the fact is, I am saying that I was actually in the mirage."

"What was it like?"

"It was a city of ghosts. They appeared silently about the gray, fly-streets. They wore the costumes of all ages and all countries. It was weird and bizarre effect. When I came to consciousness in the mirage the first thing that I saw was a man, silk hat, frock coat, expiring waistcoat, all the same gray tint shadowy. He was talking with a ghost of a beautiful Egyptian woman; they spoke in whispers; everyone was in whispers.

"Did any of them speak to you?"

"Yes; hesitatingly at first, he told me that I was dead, that all the cities of the mirage were cities of dead. They floated and drifted through the air, settling down now and then on the sand, as a bee might alight on a flower, passing onward again the space when any living being approached them. Every ship that is sunk again through the sky, manned by drowned crew."

"You are saying this seriously?"

"Quite. I know the scientific explanation that the ship is merely an image of a vessel out of sight. I say the scientific explanation is, but I cannot believe it because I experienced the other thing. It is just as certain of the existence of a shadow city, and of myself as a ghost in its midst, of the buildings of the streets I traversed, the people whom I spoke. I was just as conscious of those things, and of the fact, I was dead as I am now that I that I am in this particular room, I touch your hand."

She drew her hand away, wate him, half frightened.

"Why," she asked, "did you not me about this before?"

"It seemed useless. The story is credible to everyone except myself. I believe," he said, "is not a mirage. I was there in the mirage."

Now she laughed again, but not seriously.

"I am not so easily frightened, you must not go on believing it."

"Belief," he said, "is not a mirage. I was there in the mirage."