

Questions Raised in the Stone Case

Miss Stone's fate in being captured by Bulgarian brigands, carried off to mountain fastnesses, and held for ransom, is one to which all foreigners exposed themselves who sojourn or travel in countries of the Old World where through the weakness or connivance of the authorities brigandage prevails. There have been numerous other cases of the same kind during the last thirty years or so, especially in Greece, Turkey, in the Balkan states, along the northern coast of Africa, and even in Italy and Spain. In every instance a ransom is demanded, and each time a discussion arises as to the policy and principle of paying this ransom. Of course, the first inclination of the friends, the fellow countrymen and the government of the captives is to pay the ransom at once, the hope of preserving them from death and even torture rising superior to every other consideration. But naturally there are many other objections to this course. In the first place, it constitutes an encouragement to the commission of other outrages of the same character, and with the same results. In countries where money is scarce and lawlessness reigns, too, it is contrary to the principles of law, since it is nothing more or less than compounding a felony, while the government of the country in which the capture has taken place is naturally opposed to the payment of any money to the brigands by way of ransom, knowing full well that a claim will eventually be made upon it by the state to which the captive belongs for the money thus handed over to the bandits.

One of the most famous instances of foreigners being captured by brigands and held for ransom is that of Lord and Lady Muncaster, who is now an elderly man and a frequent visitor to this country, was staying at Athens in 1870, when a platoon of the plain of Marathon was organized by some of the members of the diplomatic corps, accredited to the Greek court. The party consisted of Lord and Lady Muncaster, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lloyd and their child, Fred Vyner, brother of the Marchioness of Ripon; Count Albert Boyl, secretary of the Austrian legation; the Hon. Edward Herbert, secretary to the British mission, and several other young aristocrats. They were on their way back to the city when they were suddenly pounced upon by a party of brigands, under the command of the well known brigand chief, Arvanitaki, and were carried off to the hill country lying between Paralimni and Mount Parnassus. The brigands after twenty-four hours let the women go, not from any motives of chivalry, but merely because their presence impeded the rapidity of the movement of the band, and at the same time the men of the party were directed to draw lots for one of their number to return to Athens and to notify the terms under which his companions could recover their liberty. It was Lord Muncaster who was fortunate enough to be selected emissary, and the demands with which he was intrusted by the brigand chief called for a ransom of \$150,000 in money, a free pardon for

present and past crimes, and the liberation of certain bandits then in custody. Lord Muncaster was, moreover, thoroughly given to understand that if any attempt were made to pursue the band prisoners would be put to death. Lord Muncaster, on reaching Athens, hastened at once to the English legation and sought the assistance of Mr. Erskine, the British envoy. The latter immediately arranged to pay the ransom demanded, and at the same time took steps to obtain from the Greek government the promise of pardon for the bandits. It was here that Mr. Erskine and Lord Muncaster encountered difficulties. For, while the Greek constitution empowers the sovereign to grant amnesties for political offenses, he cannot grant any pardon for criminal offenses, save with the consent of the national legislature, which was not then in session. Negotiations were in progress with the brigands, with the object of conveying them some assurance that a pardon would be granted in their favor as soon as ever parliament reassembled, when the Greek cabinet, foreseeing not only trouble in the chamber about the amnesty, but likewise that it would be called upon by Great Britain in course of time to defray the amount of the ransom paid by Mr. Erskine, started large bodies of troops and of constabulary after the brigands. This was done without the knowledge of the king, and in defiance of the most solemn pledges given by the Greek premier to the British envoy and to Lord Muncaster. The brigands, enraged by this breach of faith, carried their captives still farther into the mountains, and when hard pressed by their pursuers, murdered every one of them, servants and all, in cold blood. Some of them were shot, others stabbed in the back, while others again had their throats cut. So great was the indignation created by the behavior of the Greek government in breaking its promises to the British legation, that King George was forced to dismiss the entire cabinet, and while the Greek treasury escaped the payment of the ransom, it was compelled by England to grant heavy damages to the families of some of the victims of the tragedy.

A year later, owing to the energy displayed in the matter by King George, not only Arvanitaki and his entire band were captured and brought to justice, but likewise several members of the Greek parliament, and likewise an Englishman of the name of Noel, established at Negroponte, who were proved to have been accomplices of the brigands. Noel, indeed, having furnished the information as to the amount of ransom which it would be well to demand for the release of the Muncaster party. A number of them were convicted and put to death, while the others were sentenced to various terms of penal servitude. Until about ten years ago the sublime ruse was invariably forced to be resorted to by foreign embassies at Constantinople whatever ransoms they had been called upon to pay for the release of their countrymen and country women captured and held for ransom. Turkish brigandage, and I can recall the sultan grumbling at having to pay a sum of \$50,000 for Count and Countess Bray-Steinberg, who had been subjected to a good deal of ill usage by their captors, owing to their struggles. At the sublime ruse it was plausibly

remarked in this connection that \$50,000 was a very big sum to pay "pour des Allemands endormies" (for sleeping Germans). But when a Major Boetwick, who held an appointment in the Turkish gendarmerie, called upon the British embassy to ransom his wife and children, who had been carried off by brigands, the British foreign office called a halt in the matter, realizing that, in view of the fact that the major was in the employ of the Turkish government, it would have difficulty in recovering from the latter the repayment of the money expended in the liberation of his family. So the major was informed that, while the embassy would use its friendly offices in his behalf, it could not grant any ransom nor exact the latter from the porte, since, as a police official, he must have known better than any one else the risk to which he was exposing his wife and children when he brought them out to live in that particular part of Turkey where the outrage took place.

This is undoubtedly the only logical course to adopt, not only in Turkey but in all other civilized, half-civilized and barbarous countries, where law and order are at a discount. Thus while it is perfectly right and proper to demand pecuniary indemnities for outrages to which tourists, missionaries and merchants have been subjected, say in China, when it can be shown that the local authorities have either participated in the affair or have declined to interfere, yet there is no ground for any demand by the injured parties, either upon their own governments or upon that of the country in which the crime has taken place, when the latter has been perpetrated by outlaws or even by the populace. People who venture into such countries do so at their own risk and cannot expect to enjoy there the same security as at home or to be furnished free of cost with that armed escort which alone could insure their safety from brigands.

In Japan during the first ten or fifteen years that followed the revolution of 1867, the mikado's government was blamed for prohibiting foreigners from traveling in the interior. Yet it was thoroughly justified in so doing. It was not through any prejudice that it entertained against white people, but merely because it could not guarantee the safety of Europeans and Americans from attacks on the part of fanatics who had grown up in the belief that the foreigners were foes of the Japanese race, and who, unaccustomed to western ways, often construed as mortal insults many things that we consider part and parcel of our social intercourse and life. Prior to 1867 the Japanese government had been repeatedly called upon to pay heavy indemnities for murderous attacks upon foreigners, so it made up its mind to diminish the opportunities for outbreaks of this character by preventing foreigners from traveling in the interior, and from coming into contact with any of the natives save those already accustomed to their ways.

In conclusion, it may be said that the missionary society which Miss Stone is employed is acting wisely in declining to pay the money demanded by the brigands for her ransom. For if the ransom were paid, the native belief in the wealth of the missionary societies would be confirmed and the kidnapping

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of missionaries and the holding them for big ransoms would become a new and extensive and a profitable form of brigand industry in eastern Europe and throughout the orient. Miss Stone runs no risk of her life unless troops are sent in pursuit of her captors, and it is likely that she will soon be liberated if the brigands find that they can obtain no money for her liberation.—Exchange in Washington Post.

SWALLOWED HIS TEETH.

Maurice A., the 19-year-old son of James A. Brooks, swallowed while asleep early yesterday morning a plate with false teeth attached. He was dreaming that the plate had become detached and had slipped down his throat and awoke to find the dream a reality. He aroused his father, who hurried him to a physician living nearby, but after an examination the youth was told that he had not swallowed his teeth. A thorough search was made at his home, but the missing plate could not be found. As the choking sensation continued and the boy was unable to eat, the father took him to the Johns Hopkins hospital, where Dr. Finney made an examination and found that the teeth had lodged near the top of the breast bone. Every effort to remove them through the mouth failed and an operation was necessary.

An incision was made in the throat about the top of the breast bone. The plate could then be plainly seen, but it was too deeply imbedded to be removed. The incision was then sewed and laparotomy performed, the stomach being opened. A rubber tube was then passed in the stomach and up to the food tract, or esophagus, past the plate and out of the mouth. A cord, with a sponge at one end, was then attached to the pretracheal space, and the plate and the teeth were pulled. The cord and sponge followed it, and the sponge catching against the plate, pulled it down the esophagus and thus into the stomach, whence it was removed. The operation is a rare one, but young Brooks is expected to recover. He is employed at the Baltimore and Ohio Central building—Baltimore Dispatch Cincinnati Enquirer.

PRIZES FOR THE "CHRISTMAS NEWS."

The Deseret News offers the following cash prizes for contributions to its Christmas edition to be issued Saturday, Dec. 21, 1901.

First—\$50 for the best Christmas story, not to exceed 8,000 words, (about seven columns of the "News" type.)

Second—\$25 for the best Christmas poem, not to exceed 1,200 words.

All contributions to be in the "News" office not later than Dec. 3rd, 1901.

Nothing received later than that date will be considered. Contestants are requested to sign their contributions with an initial letter or nom de plume, to conceal their identity, and to forward in separate envelope securely sealed, their real names and the initial or nom de plume appended to their articles. On the outside of the envelope should be written "Proper name of—" (here indicate the initial or nom de plume used.) All members of the "News" staff will be excluded from the contest. The awards for the story and the poem will be made by competent judges to be announced later.

One day a new idea occurred to the oldest monkey. He had the rat in his arms, and putting it down gently on the floor of the cage, he cautiously sat down on it. The rat did not move, nor did it seem to object to the queer use to which the monkey was putting it. As for the monkey, he looked about with a broad grin on his face, and fairly chuckled with delight over the soft cushion he had found.

After sitting there for a while, he got up and that the other monkeys might try it, and they were all as much pleased as he had been.

From that time on the rat was in daily use as a cushion, and he took it with perfect good temper, never objecting to it in the least. As the monkeys were invariably kind to it, the keeper allowed it to remain in their cage, and the strange performance became one of the sights of the garden.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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