

# Picturesque Views of Coveted Morocco

**A**PROPOS of the recent sharp interchange of diplomatic views between France and Germany concerning the future of Morocco and the Moors all that relates directly to that north African country and its inhabitants becomes of especial interest. This is accentuated by the fact that the moment seems to have arrived suddenly, and almost with an international shock, when the various powers are called upon to express once for all their ultimate intention in regard to the conduct of France and Germany over the ancient country of the Carthaginians.

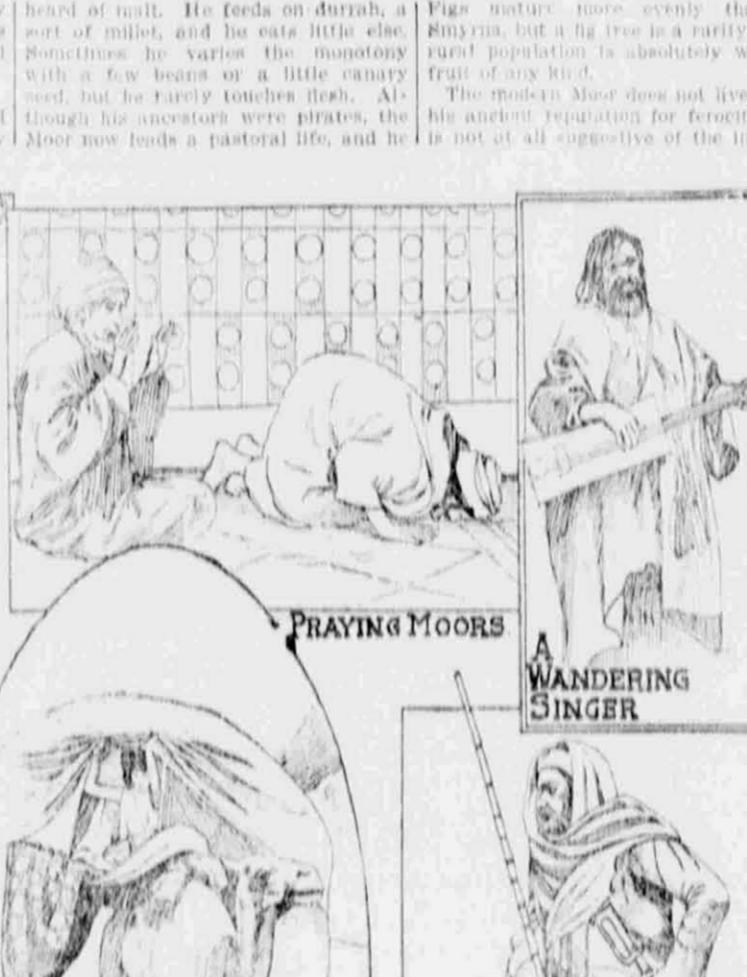
For many years it has been no secret either that France has been engaged in a lavish attempt to absorb as much as possible of the territory known collectively as Barbary. The French were first to enter the lists and succeeded in obtaining a firm foothold before the Germans awoke to the merits of the situation. The presence of France in north Africa is the result of an accident. In the sixteenth century Algeria claimed to be the model eastern empire, but its government was a chanceless absolutism, and its people were pirates of an exceedingly degenerate breed. The country was so outside the pale of civilization that it was esteemed a singularly virtuous act for a Christian nation to send a punitive expedition now and then.

The Algerines did not grow better with age. In 1815 the United States charmed them and a year later a combined Dutch and English fleet bombarded the city of Algiers and put an end to Christian slavery. In 1830 a French council who had been refreshing himself rather too generously in the bazaar, entered a mosque without removing his top boots, mistaking the sacred edifice for an inn. This apparent sacrilege so infuriated the Moors that they put him to death. France acted with great promptness and sent an army to subdue the insolent Moors. The indignant Frenchmen were not slow to demand an apology and financial reparation. Their orders were to conquer the country. They found this not an easy thing to do. It was accomplished only after many years of bloody war. It was not until 1847 that they succeeded in capturing the agha Abd-el-Kader, who seems to have been a very tough proposition. Then they appointed a military governor and proceeded to rule the country. They had plenty of discontents, and it was several years before they could venture to replace the military governor with a civil one. Finally, however, they did it and Algiers has ever since remained a French province.

In the course of time many ini-

tiatives came from France and the colonial government began to show signs of expansion. The troubles incident to the Franco-Prussian war checked all enterprise in this direction for awhile, but as they began to recover from the blow the French manifested a disposition to reach out and help themselves. Afafis in Tunis, on the east of Algeria, were a good deal involved; if Germany had not made up her mind to attack that valuable and interesting region to the empire. As it is there are already remanences, disputes, threats and no end of diplomatic warfare. The latter has paid a visit to the country and likes it. From the Tenthon's standpoint that is much. Meanwhile the German influence in north Africa is tremendous.

Morocco is worthy the attention of any nation desirous to add the element of picturesqueness to its territory. It is a land in which progress is unknown. Progress is a word for which the Moorish objects have no synonym. It is not a desert, although it adjoins the Sahara. It really contains much soil of almost incredible fertility. It is a land, also, in which neither science nor capital has ever come to the aid of the



husbandman. Agriculture is probably at a lower ebb than it was in the days when the envious sons of the Biblical patriarch carried their empty sacks to fruitful Egypt.

There is no better wheat in the world than that raised in Morocco. In view

of malt. He feeds on durrah, a sort of millet, and he eats little else. Sometimes he varies the monotony with a few beans or a little canary seed, but he rarely touches flesh. Although his ancestors were pirates, the Moor now leads a pastoral life, and he

figs mature more evenly than at Smyrna, but a fig tree is a rarity. The rural population is absolutely without fruit of any kind.

The modern Moor does not live up to his ancient reputation for ferocity. He is not at all suggestive of the impetu-

ity of the people. The wool from the backs of their half starved herds is the equal of that from the valley of Cashmere. It commands an enormous figure in the foreign markets, but the supply is infinitesimal. Most of it is used at home, and there is often great lack of it even for domestic purposes. Holes tanned in Morocco have a worldwide reputation, especially those of Mequines. If nature did not come forward and furnish almost free of effort the lions' and panthers' skins from which the famous mequines are made, Morocco would certainly be minus another industry. The best of these skins are as soft as silk and as white as snow. Some of them are dyed beautifully, but only one shade is manufactured in a locality. Red morocco comes from Fez and from nowhere else. Green is the exclusive possession of Taflet, and the city of Morocco has a monopoly of the yellow. Another lively Moroccan industry is the making of cloth caps. These are the closest fitting head coverings so much affected by Moslems the world over. The Moors prefer other headgear, but they find a ready market for all the caps they can make, and caravans loaded with them leave Fez weekly for the Algerine frontier. Every Mohammedan in the province is provided with one of these small bright colored caps.

For centuries the Moors have managed to keep their country closed to all the world. With the exception of a few consular officials and a handful of missionaries there are no white residents living in the interior. No other country in the world has remained for so long a time in self contented ignorance. There seems to have been a steady retrogression ever since the expulsion of the Moors from Spain and their return to Morocco, bearing with them to their surroun-

dants the remnants of their former arts and learning. In those days the two universities of Fez and Marakesh, the ancient name of the city of Morocco, were known even in Europe as seats of learning. These schools have become the mere echo of their former selves. Today they are absurdities in an educational sense and are rather hotbeds of fanaticism and that species of oriental intrigue which is at best in the pages of fiction.

Unlike many eastern countries, Japan for instance, the population of Morocco is bound together by no ties of patriotism. There is no such term as fatherland in the language. The whole system of the country is tribal, and no man looks beyond his tribal affiliations. There are few chances for individuals to distinguish themselves. Next to the frank and unqualified hatred which the Moor feels for the Christians and that is a part of his religion and must be regarded as such, is the distaste he has for the society of a fellow countryman who chances to be of a tribal strain differing from his own.

JOHN E. WATERSON

## William Ziegler, the Richest Boy In the World

Fourteen-year-old Lad, Worth \$30,000,000,  
Who Will Try to Discover the  
Elusive North Pole

**F**OR many years the name of William Ziegler has been a power in the American financial world. Today its perpetuation and its financial import are centered in the rather diminutive person

of a boy of fourteen. The stepmother adopted son and heir of the man who made the name what it is, the William Ziegler that was rose out of the dust of obscurity to both fame and fortune, that the William Ziegler that will do remains to be seen.

He is a many little fellow, small for his years, but endowed with an intellectual capacity which argues well for his future. To many boys of his tender age the sudden coming of an inheritance of \$30,000,000 would be a fatal test. It cannot fail to be all of that for young William Ziegler, boy son of the great wealth accumulated by the uncle for whom he was named, known in commercial parlance as "the baking powder king" and in the scientific world as "a searcher for the pole." Although somewhat understated, the boy is sturdy and of a robust physique, but he is of vigorous constitution and has shown beyond cavil by his heroic endurance of the consequences of a serious accident which happened to him during the Easter holidays. If he had been anything less than a normal, jolly, fun loving boy he would have escaped this injury brought about by the activity incident to a rough and tumble pillow fight with some of his schoolmates who were his guests for the holidays. His condition has only recently become free from uncertainty. No less than three decided grave surgical operations were found necessary, and the lad is still interned at his Ziegler summer home at Norton, on Long Island sound. He is progressing so favorably, however, that it is becoming evident to his careful guardians that he is going to make a perfect recovery.

Unusual as it certainly is, young William Ziegler seems to appreciate his decidedly unique position. He appears to have obtained in some way a perfectly definite understanding of the responsibilities which are incident to great wealth. Most remarkable of all, he has arrived at a stubborn determination to accomplish the purpose which was so markedly the premier hobby of the elder Ziegler's later years—this



WILLIE ZIEGLER.

The fortunate youngster had never received the slightest intimation that the man who had responded so nobly to all his needs was not his father. For some time afterward he was permitted to remain in ignorance of the true relationship. On account of his temporarily feeble condition it was thought advisable to defer the confession. When he was told he was neither started nor aggrieved. When he became conscious of the fact that his own father was alive and that his putative cousin were transformed into brothers and

sisters it did not for a moment diminish the strength of the loving memory in which he had enshrined the man who had been so much to him. All that he could be induced to say about the matter was: "He was my father. I shall never have any other, and I shall do exactly as he wished."

William Ziegler, "the baking powder king and pole searcher," made for himself one of the most interesting careers ever planned and carried out by an American citizen. He was a native of

the painter's trade. But he was from the first dominated by the determination to win a fortune, and he saw little opportunity to succeed in his chosen calling, so he abandoned it and engaged in several ventures, none of which proved to be profitable. Finally he became a druggist and soon developed a remarkable fondness for chemical experimentation. He was especially interested in the composition of soda compounds and their allied salts. In 1863 Mr. Ziegler removed to New York

and manufactured and sold in a small way in Chicago. He had little money, but his energy was something phenomenal. Having satisfied himself that the Windy City commodity was destined to supply him with the means for further expansion, he proceeded to acquire control of it. He traveled all over the United States with a propaganda so effective that he revolutionized the long accepted process of baking and laid the foundation of the great fortune which came to him.

contesting manufacturers in a great baking powder trust, in which his will was paramount. Cream of tartar, one of the chief ingredients of his product, is made from argols, the scrapings of wine casks. Since America is not a great wine producing country, the importation of argols soon became a vital feature of the baking powder trade.

To avoid complication Mr. Ziegler made arrangements to control all of the argols scraped. This move put him in absolute command of the situation, without argols no commercial cream of tartar, and without that corrective of rampant acidity, no baking powder.

William Ziegler was indeed the "baking powder king."

He made so much money that in 1886 he retired from active business. That, at least, was what he professed to do, although it was not possible to detect the slightest inclination on his part to abandon the field of active effort. He soon became known as an operator in Brooklyn real estate to the extent of many millions of dollars, and his ventures were almost uniformly successful. He also took a hand in the regulation of municipal affairs and led a fight against the attempted purchase by the city of the property of the Long Island Water Supply company, saving the taxpayers \$1,500,000.

His most notable activity, however, was the outfitting of the expedition designed to explore the arctic via Franz-Josef Land in search of the north pole. At a cost of at least \$100,000 he sent northward and maintained it in the arctic during the season of 1901-02, under the command of Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, one of the most accomplished arctic navigators of the day, an exploring force which was superior to any ever before organized. Although the elusive pole did not yield its mystery Mr. Ziegler professed to be entirely satisfied with the result. The following year he sent out another expedition in charge of Anthony Fiala, who had been a member of the first party. Fiala has not yet returned from the arctic and early in the spring of the present year Mr. Ziegler sent a relief expedition.

ALFRED BUTLER.

### JAPANESE GODS.

It is said that there are no fewer than 8,000,000 gods worshipped by the Japanese. Praying is made very easy. In the streets are tall posts with prayers printed on them and with a small wheel attached. Any one can give the wheel a turn, and that counts as a prayer. The people in the second largest of the 3,880 islands of which the empire is composed worship the bear and reverence the sun, moon, fire, wind and water.

### SENTRY GUARDS IDOL.

In Pisa may be seen an English sentry keeping guard over a Burmese idol. The Burmese believe the idol is asleep and that when he awakes the end of the world will come. The sentry is there to prevent any one from entering the pagoda which is his place of repose and awakening him. His numbers have passed 6,000 years.

POSTAL OFFICIALS IN GERMANY GET TWO

### STRAY FACTS.

The total length of the Russian railway system on Jan. 14 was 37,571½ miles. In 1864 there were thrown open to traffic 975 miles.

A passenger locomotive needs about 120 gallons of oil each year to keep it running order.

The provincial legislature of British

Columbia has passed a law abolishing the wearing of wigs as an accompaniment of official attire.

For the equipment of the Austrian army the national defense committee at Vienna has approved of the Mauser rifle in preference to the Mauser,

A will, drawn up twenty years ago,

ed, regularly attended Sunday school as scholar and teacher for eighty years.

Chilliwack, a little town on the Fraser river, holds the curious record of having performed a play in which no fewer than 2,000 individuals took part. All the characters were led men.

The giraffe is the only animal which is unable to swim. This is on account of its long neck. Every other animal

can, if put to it, manage to keep afloat. The prize of the great cat show which was held at Hamburg was Bodis, a splendid Angora female, who won the grand prize of \$1,250 at Paris, and whose pedigree goes back to 1794.

Preserved in the cathedral of Bangor, Wales, is a pair of old "dog bones," which were used for ejecting quarrel-

some dogs from church during service.

A similar pair is preserved at Edinburg, Wales, and bears numerous death marks.

The other day a member of a London burgh council said he had watched a man working on one of the borough's streets who dropped his pick into one hole full 120 times without moving anything.

Postal officials in Germany get two

weeks' vacation if under forty-five years of age, three weeks if between forty-five and fifty, and four weeks if over sixty.

The British commercial agent in Russia reports that the laying of a second track on the Trans-Siberian line of the Siberian railroad will require over 49,000 tons of steel rails, costing about

\$1,750,000.