

# No. 27—HEROES OF HISTORY.

(Written for the Deseret News by Albert Payson Terhune.)

## HERNANDO CORTES—The Hero Who Won by "Bluffing."

A SPANISH boy of 18, had resolved on a life of adventure, but fate had so interfered with his plans that by 1503, he had given up hope. He was Hernando Cortes, descendant of an old but impoverished family, and had been intended by his parents for a lawyer. With this in view he was sent at 14 to the University of Salamanca. But he was of wild, unruly disposition and thirsted for excitement. So he threw over his studies and joined an expedition bound for San Domingo. On the very eve of starting he was wounded in a fight and left behind. A year or so later he was promised a military career under a famous Spanish general, but was again baffled, this time by a long, dangerous illness. He was in despair until, in 1504, he seized an unexpected opportunity to go to San Domingo.

All Europe at this time was buzzing with reports of the new Land of Promise beyond the western ocean. Columbus had discovered it in 1492, while on a search for a western passage to the Indies. The news of a country said to be overflowing with fabulous wealth of all sorts proved a glittering lure for penniless, down-at-heel adventurers, and for royal cupidity. The center of interest at this time clusters about the West Indies. These islands were practically monopolized by Spain.

For seven years young Cortes remained at San Domingo, where he had won fame as a fearless soldier and a man of rare diplomacy. But he was not content with the goodly share of money and fighting he had picked up there, and he sought wider opportunities. Nor did he wait long for them. Men of daring were wanted in Cuba, and by impressing the authorities with his fitness for high office he was made mayor of Santiago de Cuba. He had just been discovered, and, by judicious use of the quality now known as "bluff," Cortes persuaded the governor of Cuba to put him in charge of an expedition to invade that great country. Once more did Cortes rely on the game of bluff; for, in attacking a nation of almost unlimited resources and vast population, he took with him less than 700 infantrymen, 18 cavalrymen and 10 small cannon. It is probable the Cuban governor thought the expedition would be one of discovery rather than conquest, and he had not overmuch trust in the self-confident young leader. But Cortes had other ideas. This was his chance in life. He was not the sort of man to let it slip or to work merely in behalf of a governor.

The governor, suspecting something of Cortes's plans, sent after him to recall the little army and ordered him under arrest. Cortes paid no attention to the recall; but, winning over his troops by promises of great (if imaginary) reward, pressed on and landed on the coast of Mexico, March 4, 1519. He marched along the gulf and stormed the important town of Totonaco, the roar of his small cannon scaring the natives into submission. The Aztecs (original inhabitants of Mexico) had never seen sailing ships, or fire arms before. They thought Cortes was the White God, who according to prophecies, was one day to rule them. They at first sent him gifts and peace embassies. From the envoys Cortes learned that Mexico was an immense, treasure-filled empire, ruled by one Montezuma, and that the emperor's riches were beyond all computation. This was enough for Cortes. He did not long continue his policy of pacifying his awed opponents. The Iron hand quickly showed under the velvet glove. Again resorting to "bluff," he cast away all final traces of allegiance to the governor of Cuba and declared his intention of annexing Mexico to the Spanish throne. In other words, with 700 men to overwhelm a country with a population of many millions. He built the town of Vera Cruz, made himself its governor-general, burned his ships in order to cut off any chance of retreat by the less zealous of his followers and told his men they must win or die.

Cortes gave the amazed natives no time to act on this new discovery. Now came the supreme "bluff" of the man who stood almost alone in a hostile land. He seized Montezuma, burned alive the Mexican soldiers who had slain his men, threatened to kill the imprisoned emperor unless the latter would acknowledge himself the vassal of Spain and pay an enormous ransom in gold and jewels. News now came that the governor of Cuba had sent a larger expedition to arrest Cortes and carry him back to Cuba by force. He attacked and defeated the governor's troops and then forced the soldiers of the beaten expedition to serve under him.

The Mexicans now rose as one man against the invaders. Montezuma was promptly killed, but Cortes was driven from the City of Mexico. But when the Mexicans pursued the retreating Spaniards, Cortes drew them into a trap and July 7, 1520, routed them with terrible slaughter. Then, raising a larger army of natives who by fear or cupidity were tempted to join him, Cortes ravaged the surrounding country and in the next summer recaptured the City of Mexico. This completed the conquest. Success such as few men have known, and against seemingly hopeless odds, crowned Cortes's campaign. Charles V, king of Spain and emperor of Germany, allowed the Mexican treasure sent him by the conqueror to outweigh the charges drawn up by the governor of Cuba and made Cortes a marquis and governor-general of Mexico.

He won over to himself several caciques (princes) who were at odds with Montezuma. By superior generalship as well as by the fright caused by his cannon and horses and the natives' belief in his divinity, he put to flight such armies as were sent to check him. With truly Spanish cruelty he put to death all who stood in his way and at last (Nov. 18, 1519,) entered the City of Mexico, at the head of his Spaniards and several thousand allies. Montezuma received him with the belief that the invader was a god. But suddenly affairs took a turn for the worse. Several of his men were killed in a fight and the head of one of them was brought to Montezuma. The Mexicans thus saw that their visitors were not gods but mere mortal adventurers.

But the hero's triumph excited the envy of his enemies at the Spanish court. Charges of cruelty and alleged maladministration were trumped up against him. For a time Cortes stood out against this growing influence. He pressed his explorations, and in 1536, he discovered California. At last, shorn of most of his honors, he was forced to go to Spain, there to oppose his enemies in person. But Charles V, whose mind had been poisoned against his brave servant, received him coldly. Neglected, chagrined, ill-treated, the conqueror of Mexico finally went once more to the emperor to demand redress.

"Who is this person?" asked Charles V, looking on him without apparent recognition.

"I am the man," retorted Cortes, "who has won for you more provinces than your father left you towns!"

This daring reply robbed Cortes of his last chance of court favor. He withdrew to his country seat and there died, in 1547, alone and heartbroken, leaving a name unequalled for daring and resourcefulness and standing out through all time as a pathetic example of the quality of royal ingratitude.

## SALT LAKERS IN GOTHAM.

(Special Correspondence.) NEW YORK, June 20.—At last Sunday's services there was a notable gathering of people from a home, consisting of President and Mrs. Anthon H. Lund and daughter Eva, Prof. Anthon Lund and wife of Provo, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Roberts, Mrs. C. E. Loose and daughter Fay, of Provo, and Mrs. Andrew Jensen, and daughter. This party, entire, with the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, sailed from Montreal on the 15th for England, at the Canadian port meeting other Utahns bound for Europe on summer vacations.

It is several years since President Lund visited this city; his coming always marks an event in the Utah colony, and his half hour talk to the people was listened to with the deepest interest. President Rich and Elder Roberts also spoke, making a most interesting service throughout. Mrs. Gillette, Prof. Lund and R. C. Easton each sang solos. Prof. Lund's singing was a genuine pleasure to his hearers, the voice method and rendering of the hymn, "Joseph the Seer," if given on a concert program, would have been a marked feature. Prof. Lund had another surprise for the audience at the conclusion of the service, in the singing of his pupil, Miss Fay Loose, who possesses a dramatic soprano voice fresh, pure and of good quality. Miss Loose undoubtedly has a future to make it a profession. She with her mother will tour Europe with President Lund and party; Mrs. and Mr. Jensen will travel as far as Denmark, with them, meeting Elder Jensen in Copenhagen.

The impromptu concert held after services included R. C. Easton in several favorite songs.

President Lund and party, with several friends, had dinner at Mission headquarters, No. 33 West One Hundred and Twenty-sixth street, on invitation of President Rich. Elders B. H. Roberts and wife, Prof. Lund and wife and Mrs. and Miss Loose registered at the New Grand, Thirtieth and Broadway, and President and Mrs. Lund were guests of President Rich. Two days were spent in Boston, and the party left by train for Montreal Thursday evening. The many friends of the Utah party in New York hope to see them on their return late in August, when they will be able to spend a few days more sightseeing. Bon voyage.

At the same Sunday services were to be seen the familiar faces of Mr. and Mrs. Miles Romney and Robert Patrick of Z. C. M. L., who are here on business for their firm and who stayed at the St. Andrews on West Seventy-second street.

Mr. Mehlh Eardley of Salt Lake, now a student in electricity at the college in Schenectady, is a visitor to this city for a few days, and was an interested listener at church services Sunday. Mr. Eardley came down to meet his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, and do some sightseeing also.

Last week Mrs. J. Thorstorf of Salt Lake arrived on a visit to her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thorstorf; this is her first visit to New York and

a delightful time is anticipated by her and the family during her stay. Already she has met several members of Prof. Stephens' Tabernacle choir and a good talk on old friends at home has been enjoyed.

President Allen, who has been out in the country for several weeks, returned to the city a few days ago to attend to some business of importance; he brings good news from the elders now traveling through western New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

In a letter to his aunt, Mrs. Easton, Elder Ross Beattie, who is one of the traveling missionary corps, writes pleasantly of his experiences in the field and of the generous hospitality shown the elders by people in country places where they are preaching.

It is almost three weeks since Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Durham left for their home in Beaver, and each week the absence of the work so freely given by Prof. Durham to the conference in a musical way is keenly felt by all. Mrs. Durham's stay was a brief one, but in the time she made a host of friends; her husband's friends are numbered by his acquaintances. It may be that Mr. Durham will be with us again in a year or two, to resume work at the Musical Institute. This institution will be removed from Twelfth and Fifth avenue to Riverside and West One-hundred and Twenty-third street.

Mrs. Ida Smoot Dusenberry, who is a delegate to the convention in Buffalo and Toronto on Charities and Corrections, now in session until June 23, was a visitor to the city from Wednesday until Saturday, and while here held a Relief society meeting at mission headquarters, giving instruction to the ladies on Relief society work, and mapping out a few suggestions for the benefit of teachers. Her remarks were closely followed by all present, each and every one feeling she had received a special benefit by the visit. Mrs. Dusenberry left for Toronto on the midnight train Saturday.

Tuesday last Mrs. Frances Fryer left for Saratoga with friends, to be gone the summer; her daughter, Monta Fryer, will follow later in July; both ladies expect to be away until the middle of September.

Messrs. Alex. K. Nibley and Aman Moore of the Portland Cement Co., were rushing around last week looking after business and meeting business friends for the few days spent here, leaving for Los Angeles Saturday afternoon by the Twentieth Century limited.

The roof garden of the Waldorf is a great place to meet Utah people. Col. Nicholas Trewick, Joe Jenkins and Angus Nicholson were encountered by a Salt Lake party a few nights ago, as they were lunching together on the roof of that popular hotel. Mutual recognitions and salutations were exchanged between the parties.

The corridors of the Waldorf also are good places to meet old friends—as it is the well known headquarters of western mining men, it so happened that a quartet of prominent ones, Uncle Jesse Knight, A. W. McCune, ex-Senator Thomas Kearns and David Keith were met Tuesday evening by some Salt Lakers in the hall adjoining the reading room. The general surprise all around, although the presence of the quartet in the same hotel was quite accidental.

Elder George A. Hill came in this morning on the Atlantic from Liverpool. Elder Hill has filled a three years' mission in Germany, being co-laborer with Elders John W. Clawson, Frank Whitney and Lawrence Clawson, during his absence in the German empire. Elder Hill left for home a few hours after landing, being anxious to see his loved ones, and also to meet a company of friends in Chicago, so they could travel homeward together; his laborers have been pleasant ones and he returns in good health and spirits.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Prosser and little daughter Winifred, left for home last Thursday, intending to spend the summer in Salt Lake. Mr. Prosser may be obliged to visit the mines in Nevada, during their stay. Mrs. Prosser and daughter will go to the Walker farm, the old home of Mrs. Prosser, for the months of July and August.

On Wednesday last Dr. L. B. Laker of Eureka, surprised his friends by calling on them before starting into work at the New York hospital on East Twenty-first street. Dr. Laker will take a post graduate course at the hospital for six weeks, visiting other hospitals as well and making good his time while here.

It is 10 years since Dr. Laker, who is a graduate of Rush medical college, Chicago, was here in the capacity of an elder, having filled a mission in the Eastern States, headquarters being then in Brooklyn; the friends he made during his labors in this field have watched his progress.

At today's services, Mrs. Thomas F. Howells was a visitor with her son, Mr. Thomas Howells who is taking a course in the hospital, having left the "Jefferson" of Philadelphia for the summer's vacation. Mother and son will visit Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington before Mrs. Howells's return west.

Frank Foster just arrived from Boston with the "Middle Mischief" company, was present at church services today. JANET.

### POOR MILK

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McClellan's Symphony Orchestra. Saltair today, 6:15 to 7:15. Fifty men. Free to all. Round trip 25c.

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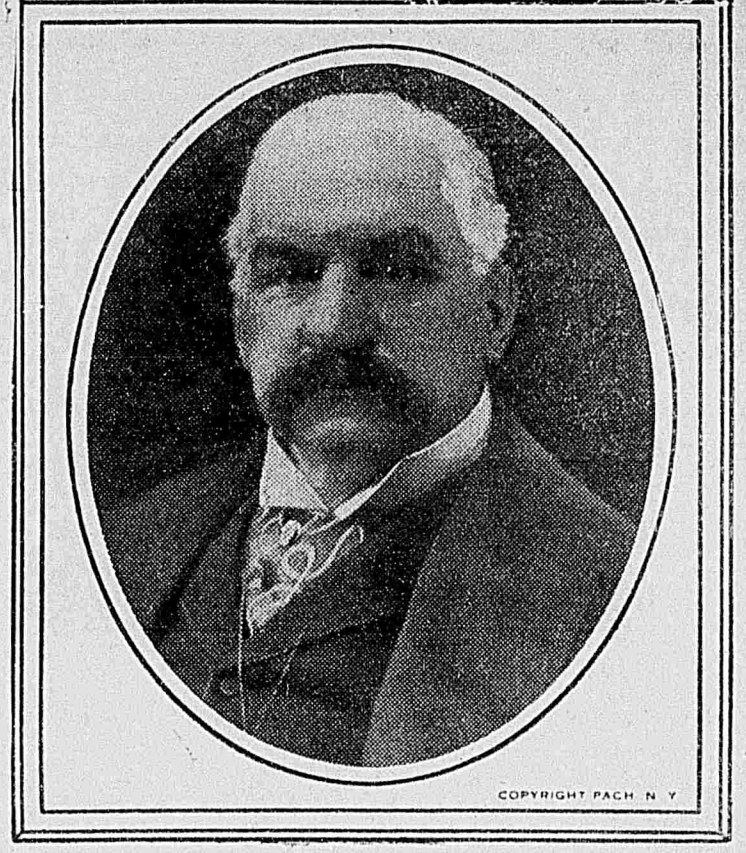
### SUNDAY EXCURSIONS.

Via Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. To Ogden 10:25 a. m. To Provo Canyon 7:50 a. m. To Pharaoh's Glen 8:20 a. m. Returning on any train.



JOHN KIRBY, JR.

The new president of the National Association of Manufacturers. He succeeds Mr. James W. Van Cleave.



JOHN PIERPONT MORGAN.

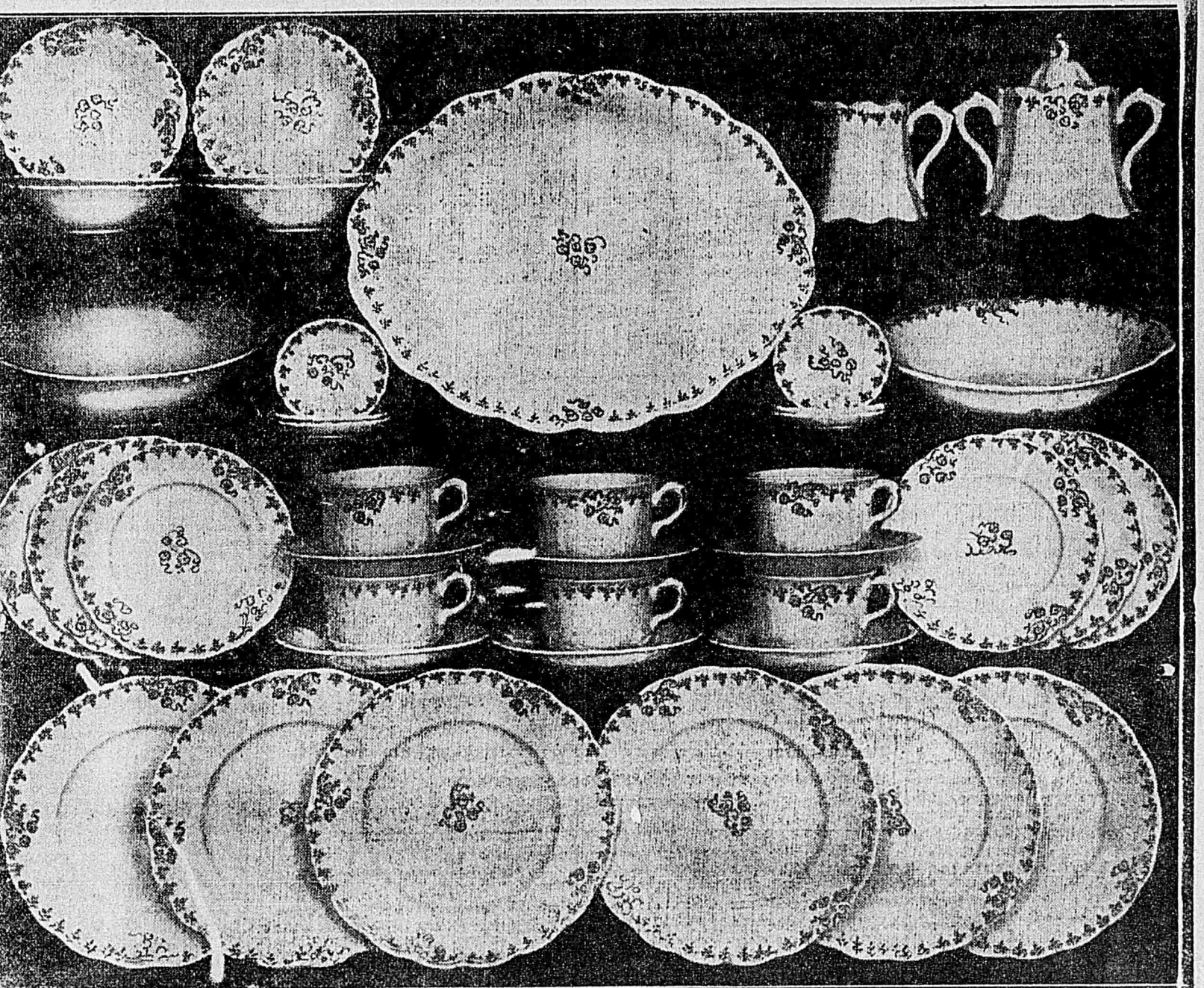
The most prominent figure in Wall street. His firm, J. P. Morgan & Co. is at present forming a combination of large dry goods interests, capital \$51,600,000.

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