

THE TERRIBLE DUNGEONS OF MONTE CRISTO'S PRISON

Who has not read the "Count of Monte Cristo" and formed an opinion as to its possibilities? I had my doubts regarding its truthfulness, for the terrible tale seems to appear exaggerated and impossible, but I am now convinced that Dumas has intended to place before us a fairly accurate picture of the prison of bygone days.

During my travels in South France, while stopping at Marseilles, I had an opportunity to join a small party on a steamer plying between the city and a group of islands in the Mediterranean sea, belonging to France. The smallest of this group, a solid rock, not more than a quarter of a mile in circumference, rising almost upright out of the water and accessible only on one side by steps known into the rock. It is known as the Ile d'If.

On this rock is built the celebrated prison or castle which Dumas has immortalized in his "Monte Cristo". The keep or dungeon was constructed in 1389 by King Francis I to imprison his captives after the victorious battles with his adversary, the Duke of Burgundy, and subsequently used for centuries by the later kings as a state prison. It was known at that time as the "Bastille of the South".

The outside walls are 15 feet thick. In the middle is a small open court sufficient to give light to the entrance of a scireling cells, which are divided by partition walls 16 feet thick, and can be entered only by one small opening from the inner court.

Directly opposite the entrance to the court is the cell which was occupied by Edmund Dantes, made famous by Alexander Dumas as the hero of the "Count of Monte Cristo". Dantes and the Abbe Faria, who was sentenced by order of the king as a conspirator, each passed 18 years of their lives in these cells.

The suffering of these and other unhappy prisoners who were confined here must have been horrible. The cells lack air and light. The walls, ceiling and floor are of solid stone, and escape was utterly impossible, it being a veritable sepulcher.

In going through the prison one feels that from behind these walls you hear the cry of suffering—the last breath and battle of those who died in despair. All of the other cells are labelled with the names of the most prominent persons who had been incarcerated there. Among them were:

Bernardot, a rich trader, who had

been arrested on suspicion of having designs against Cardinal Richelieu. He refused to die of starvation, and for 11 days refused to eat or drink. With a piece of charcoal he wrote on the wall the torture which he endured. He died on the twelfth day.

John Paul, a sailor, for slapping his commander, died in 1779, after 31 years of captivity.

Marquis De Lavalette, minister of finance under Louis XIII, for disloyalty to the king.

The brothers Serres, for assisting in the escape of Chevalier Nizelles, who was condemned to death by Louis XIV for refusing to uncover his head or bend his knees while in the presence of the king.

Alphonse Camus, for having published the secret of a prison which he had discovered.

Paul and Louis Marlet, imprisoned for life on suspicion of murder.

Balsow, a religious fanatic, who made an attempt upon the life of a Protestant nobleman.

Lafolais, for attempting to assassinate Consul Napoleon before he became emperor.

Prince Casimir, brother of Ladislaw VII, king of Poland, imprisoned by Napoleon I for having betrayed the French and serving the Spanish.

Louis Philippe D'Orleans, father of King Louis Philippe, for siding with the revolutionists in 1830.

Mirabeau, for general insubordination, duelling and publishing inflammatory writings against the royalists.

Chevalier De Balbecres, consul from Spain at Bayonne, imprisoned by order of Napoleon I for opposing and interfering with the introduction of the Napoleonic law codes.

This castle was crowded with political prisoners sentenced during and immediately before the revolution of 1789, when it was possible for the leaders to order the arrest and imprisonment of any citizen without trial and upon mere suspicion of trumped-up charges.

Napoleon I, during his early reign, sentenced many of his opponents to this isolated dungeon.

In 1835 over 400 persons, principally political agitators, were imprisoned here for an attempted plot to overthrow the government, and as late as 1871, during the commune, 600 were massed together in this limited space, sentenced as participants in the revolt against the government.

Since France has become a republic new prisons have been erected throughout the land, and the dungeon on the Ile d'If is now deserted, but its dark

and gloomy history of the past can never be blotted out.

I left it with an indelible impression after having been conducted through the empty prison cells—Milwaukee Wisconsin.

THE MODEL STEAM LAUNDRY.

AN ANECDOTE OF JOE JEFFERSON.

Jefferson liked to tell the following story upon himself. He was, of course, from his professional position, well known personally to thousands of men whom he did not know. He was constantly meeting strangers who always remembered him, and the fact that they had met him, but whom he did not always remember. He was very sensitive upon this subject, and was greatly distressed when he forgot a face or a name which he ought not to have forgotten. One day, coming down in the elevator from the top story of the Mills building in Broad street, New York, he noticed a stout, compact little man who entered the car at the next floor who looked at him for a moment, evidently waiting for recognition, and then held out his hand and said: "How do you do, Mr. Jefferson?" The actor, of course, responded in his usual, cordial, hearty way, and replied: "Why, why? How do you do? When did

you come to town, and how long are you going to be here?"

The stranger said: "But I live here. Mr. Jefferson, and you don't know who I am!"

"Well," the protagonist confessed, "I know your face perfectly, of course, but I can't place you. I see many faces, and I'm apt to get confused in my study of physiognomy." The little, stout, compact stranger smiled as he turned his cigar over in his mouth, and said: "I'm den, grand!"

Jefferson always declared that he got out at the next landing and walked down three flights of stairs to the street, for fear he would make himself additionally conspicuous by asking the gentleman if he had ever been in Washington, or if he was a veteran of the late war—Laurence Hutton, in Harper's Weekly.

As "ignorance of the law is no excuse," so "ignorance of opportunities" affords small consolation. Those who read the want ads, all the time, are in sure touch with the chances and opportunities of daily life.

HER FAVORITE SONG.

"That reminds me," said the young man, anon nothing in particular, "and it goes to show how curious are the mental processes of the child and how

stubborn the minds of grown folk on occasions. I was trying to get my little girl to sleep, and had sung and sung until my repertoire had about become exhausted. As soon as I would finish one song she would ask me forthwith to sing about the 'four heads.' What she meant by the 'four heads' I could not imagine. I conjured up every grotesque thing I ever heard of that would suggest 'four heads,' even in a remote way, and chanted in a way most surprising. But each time she would slip a request for the song about 'four heads.' I appealed to my wife. She could not help me. I was about to despair. Papa, she said, 'you know about the four heads, and the crown, and the harp, so the angel!' So I sang:

"I want to be an angel.
And with the angels stand,
A crown upon my forehead,
A harp within my hand."

The troubled look disappeared from her face as soon as I began the verse, and before I had finished she was asleep in my arms.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

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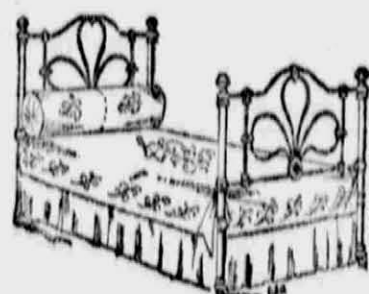


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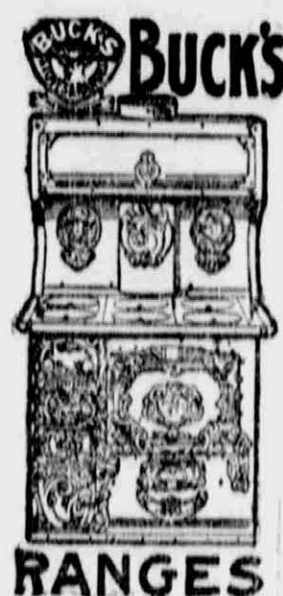
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Bishop Henry C. Potter has surprised the church people by approving and backing a beer garden in St. Nicholas Garden, New York. Bishop Potter says this will be a real German beer garden, like the Deutscher Ast of Berlin, and not like the other gardens of the city. He says, "First it is to be a place where patrons can enjoy high class music. The refreshment feature is of secondary importance. The garden will be open all summer and will have an orchestra of 50 pieces."



NEW SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Charles J. Bonaparte, a distinguished lawyer of the Baltimore bar, has been appointed secretary of the navy by President Roosevelt. Mr. Bonaparte is a great friend of the president, and heartily sympathizes with the president's policy. He considers economy eminently desirable in all governmental departments. Mr. Bonaparte is a grandson of Jerome Bonaparte, youngest brother of Napoleon I, emperor of France.